

SOCCER

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BI-WEEKLY

\$2

THOMSON PLANS EURO VISITS

A black and white photograph of a man with short, light-colored hair, looking down and slightly to the right. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored shirt. The background is blurred, showing some architectural elements.

BY ANTHONY RAINERI

S OCCEROO coach Eddie Thomson will spend time studying the latest coaching techniques from some of the world's best clubs early next year.

Thomson revealed after arriving in Sydney yesterday that he would visit clubs such as AC Milan, Ajax Amsterdam and Borussia Dortmund.

"I am very friendly with the coaching staff at Ajax and Dortmund," he said.

Thomson said he thought the exclusion of playmaker Ned Zelic ended up being the difference between the teams last Thursday.

"Zelic would have tipped

the scales our way," he said. "Aurelio Vidmar played excellent in his absence but if we had Zelic, Vidmar could have played a more attacking role."

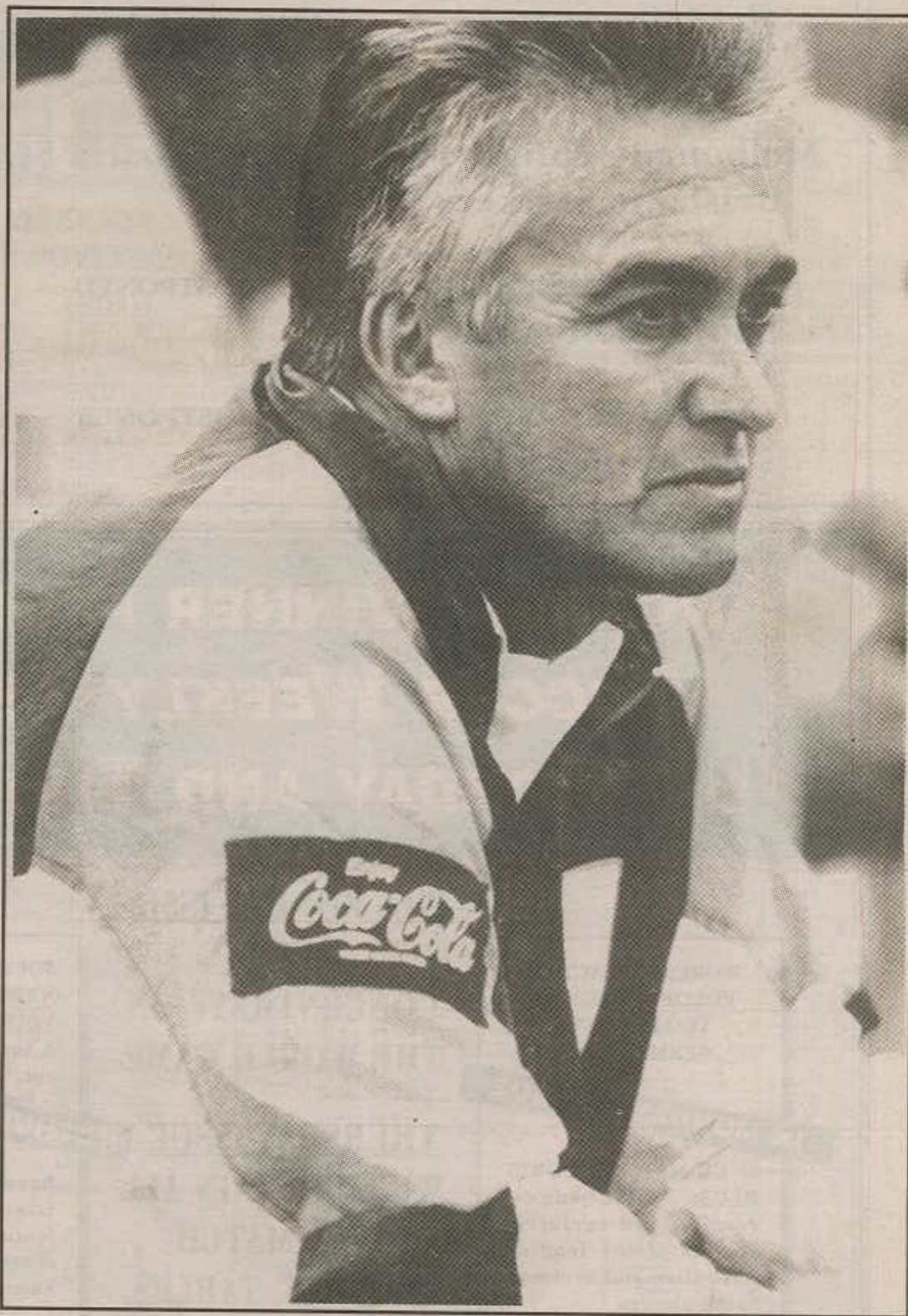
Thomson was positive on the subject of the futures of senior Socceroos like Graham Arnold, Paul Wade, Milan Ivanovic and Robbie Slater.

Football is a Soccer nation

"I don't think each player should retire straight away," he said. "If they don't do their jobs, I'll be the first to tell them"

"Then, they can retire if they want."

"I want the Vearts to continue learning from the Arnolds and the Lazaridises learning from the van Blerks."



Eddie Thomson: heading off to Europe next year to sample the latest coaching techniques.



ABSW BI-WEEKLY

OUT MONDAY AND THURSDAY





CCSL RESULTS

Weekend matches of the Coca-Cola Soccer League - ROUND 6

MATCHES

VENUE

RESULTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Newcastle BHP v
Sydney United

Mitre 10 Stadium

3 - 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Morwell Falcons v
Melbourne BUSC

Morwell F. Park

2 - 0

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Marconi F'field v
Wollongong City

Marconi Stadium

3 - 1

Heidelberg Utd v
Sydney Olympic

Olympic Village

0 - 0

Melbourne Knights v
Brisbane Strikers

Melb Croatia SC

0 - 2

Parramatta Eagles v
South Melbourne

POSTPONED

Adelaide City v
West Adelaide

POSTPONED



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ANOTHER WINNER FROM THE SOCCER WEEKLY TEAM OUT MONDAY AND THURSDAYS

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IN THURSDAY'S ISSUE

Review of National
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stories concerning
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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

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Street, Perth 6000 Tel: (09) 328 4779
EDITOR: Stephen Copping
CHIEF SUB: Lou Gautier
MELBOURNE EDITOR: Greg Blake
STAFF REPORTER: John Economos
LAYOUT: Sally Chant
Nektarios Kougellis
TYPESETTING: Mary Quattrly
PHOTOGRAPHY: JRP

CORRESPONDENTS
SYDNEY: Alistair Russell, Alfred Hiatt
MELBOURNE: Con Stravos
QUEENSLAND: Rob Black
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WOLLONGONG: Phil Murphy
Sth AUSTRALIA: Tom McKain

ADVERTISING
Sydney: John Economos (02) 560 3900,
Melbourne: Greg Blake (03) 663 4411.
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Socceroos return to heroes' welcome

The Socceroos, minus the European-based players, returned home (yesterday) Sunday.

ABSW's ANTHONY RAINERI was at Sydney International Airport to greet and talk to them.

Here are his reports:

NO GOAL

Australia's best shot at goal in the match — by substitute striker Carl Veart — was never going to be a goal, according to the Adelaide City striker.

Veart, who replaced defender and clubmate Tony Vidmar with 25 minutes to go, struck a powerful right foot volley from the edge of box in the 91st minute.

The volley, which landed wide of the goal, was Australia's last chance to equalise and it left both camps with their hearts in their mouths.

"I miskicked the ball," the 23-year-old confessed after arriving at Sydney Airport.

"The ball came off my ankle and went about a metre wide of the right post.

"It never looked like going in.

"In any case, [Argentina goalkeeper] Sergio Goycohea had the shot covered."

The volley was Veart's only shot at goal but his sharpness around the penalty box worried the Argentine defence.

"I was thrilled to be given a chance of playing," Veart said. "When I came on I wasn't as overawed as I thought I would be.

"Even when I was on the bench the atmosphere wasn't as intimidating as I expected."

FREAK

Star goalkeeper Robert Zabica said Socceroo supporters should not bemoan Argentina's freak goal too much because even if they had not scored Australia would still have been knocked out.

"The match would have finished 0-0 and Argentina would still have gone through because of the goal they scored in Sydney," Zabica said.

Zabica, 29, said he was happy with his own performance and paid special praise to his defenders.

"We were under pressure for long periods of the match," he said. "We have to be proud of our efforts.

"At one stage we were only a kick away from qualifying for the World Cup."

The Adelaide City goalkeeper said he was still trying to come to terms with Argentina's goal.

"It was just one of those things," he said. "The ball was going out but the wind blew it back in.

"The ball went over our heads, hit the post and



Robbie Slater: will he retire from international football?

went in."

MUSCAT THRILL

Australia's newest Socceroo Kevin Muscat said the Argentina match and the lead-up to it was the "biggest and greatest" experience of his life.

And he said this taking into account the experience of captaining the Young Socceroos in the World Youth Cup semi-finals in Sydney in March.

"Even though I didn't play, to be there first hand was the best thing that could have happened to me," the South Melbourne defender said about the incredible hype and atmosphere that surrounded the match.

"Just being part of the final step in Australia's campaign for the World Cup was a great honour.

"It was the greatest and biggest experience of my life."

Muscat, 20, was a surprise, 11th hour addition to the squad which flew first to Chile and then Buenos Aires.

He came on as a substitute in Australia's warm-up match against a Chilean youth team.

"I heard all sorts of stories about how bad we would be treated by the locals and about how we wouldn't be allowed to sleep at night," Muscat said.

"But that didn't eventuate. We were treated quite well."

PERSPECTIVE

Socceroo captain and Australia's most capped player Paul Wade said

playing the return leg away instead of at home was not a factor in the team's failure to qualify for the World Cup.

"It didn't worry me where we played the first or second match," Wade said. "I mean, we played the second legs of the matches against Scotland in 1985 and Israel in 1989 at home and we still didn't qualify."

Wade was responding to criticism that the Australian Soccer Federation had erred in playing the first match instead of the return leg in Sydney.

Despite losing to the former world champions, Wade said the result should be put into perspective.

"Ten years ago, if we played Argentina in Argentina, we would be happy to lose 4-0," he said.

"Last week we lost 1-0 and we were really disappointed.

"In the lead-up to the match we weren't that nervous whereas the Argentine players, I was told, had to be given sleeping tablets the night before."

Wade acknowledged Australia's biggest fault against Argentina was in front of goal.

"We played well and we were competitive but we had no clear-cut chances," the South Melbourne player midfielder said.

"We need five or six chances to score. Argentina need only one chance.

"This is something we have to work on."

PENALTY

Socceroo defender Tony Vidmar swears he should have been awarded a penalty kick when he was fouled by Argentina's Hugo Perez 13 minutes before half-time.

"That was a penalty for sure," Vidmar said. "It was a 50-50 ball and I got to it first.

"He [Perez] couldn't get to me so he clipped my foot and I fell to the ground.

"But the referee didn't see it like that."

In regard to his own performance, Vidmar said he was not satisfied.

"I could have done a bit more in attack," he admitted after the match.

"Argentina did most of the attacking which is one reason why I had to defend so much.

"I think I played better in Sydney. I contributed more."

Vidmar said he thought Argentina would continue to improve and that they would be one of the World Cup's better performers.

"We have still to see what they're fully capable of," he said.

REQUESTS

There is not a country in the world now that would not treat seriously a request by Australia for international matches.

That is the extent the Socceroos' profile has grown because of their heroic efforts against traditional football superpower Argentina, according to Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson.

"Our creditability has

jumped four-fold," Thomson told Australian and British Soccer Weekly after arriving to a hero's welcome with the team at Sydney Airport early yesterday morning.

"The match was shown all over the world. Even Holland sent two of their own commentators to call the match.

"We can now request and get decent opposition and decent money too.

"It wasn't that long ago that we had to get on our hands and knees to attract any opposition.

"Even Argentina want to play us now."

Australian Soccer Federation chairman John Constantine said countries had already started lining up to take on the Socceroos.

"The world has sat up and taken notice that Australia is a football nation of international standard," he said.

"We have two or three international tournament proposals on the discussion table.

"I will be sitting down next week with the national coaches to finalise plans.

"There is one tournament in February and some countries want warm-up matches before the World Cup."

Although Constantine would not reveal the interested countries, it is believed that the February tournament involves Denmark, Japan and Saudi Arabia. will decide what we are going to do in the next couple of weeks," he said.

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WORLD CUP DREAM ENDS



Alex Tobin: superb in defence.

BY GREG TRUMAN OF
AAP

Australia's brave Socceroos were in tears after taking two-time world champion Argentina to the wire before bowing out of World Cup contention 1-0 at a packed River Plate Stadium.

"I don't think they are a better team than us ... it's heartbreaking, it's the worst feeling ever," said speedy flanker Robbie Slater, summing up the feeling in the Australian dressing room.

Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson and the team believe Argentine defender Oscar Ruggeri deserved a red card from Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen when he brought a goalward-bound Graham Arnold down in a professional foul in the 16th minute.

"Ruggeri should have been sent off," Thomson said after the match.

"Arnold was clean through. Anywhere else it's an automatic send-off."

Slater and probably many of the tens of millions who watched the match on television around the globe

concluded the big difference between the \$60 million Argentina outfit and the \$1 million Socceroos was the priceless Diego Maradona.

Australian captain Paul Wade, playing a record breaking 65th 'A' international, was as diligent as he was in the first game in Sydney last month as Maradona's minder, but the 33-year-old whiz was back to his brilliant best last night.

"I thought in Sydney his teammates didn't play him the ball often enough. They didn't allow him to do the damage he can do," Wade said.

"But tonight they played him the ball anytime he wanted it and he showed in the first 15 or 20 minutes exactly what his left foot can do."

"I don't care what anybody says, I still think he's got the best left foot in the world."

Both Maradona and Argentine coach Alfio Basile praised the Socceroos.

"They have performed very well," Maradona said. "They complicated the match for Argentina."

"The Australian team is very, very strong — that is a great team."



Oscar Ruggeri.



Frank Farina his dream of playing in a World Cup is over.

SLATER, FARINA AND ARNOLD TO STAY



Robbie Slater: did not have the impact in midfield as expected.

BY GREG TRUMAN

Australian coach Eddie Thomson is planning a campaign to convince a number of the country's best soccer players not to retire from national duty after the 1-0 loss to Argentina in Buenos Aires.

Frank Farina, Graham Arnold and Robbie Slater were among a bunch of seasoned internationals who indicated they might have to concentrate on their club careers as European professionals if Australia was eliminated from the 1994 World Cup by Argentina.

But Thomson wants the same side to continue to play together, despite having to wait another four years to try to fulfill the World Cup dream.

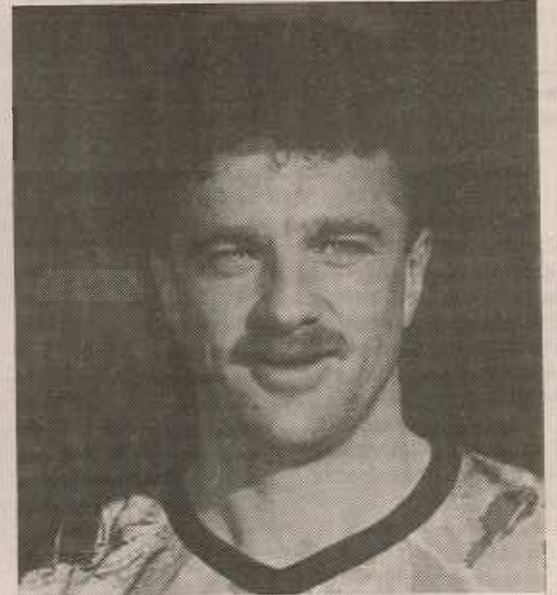
"I don't want anyone to retire," Thomson said.

"If they feel in a year or two's time that they are passed it or haven't got the same commitment, then they can think about it. But not now, it's too emotional."

The Socceroos were bitterly disappointed at the result, and Thomson best summed up the atmosphere in the dressing room after the game when he compared it to "a morgue".

"It's too quick for Arnold and all these guys," he said.

"I mean Arnold could play



Graham Arnold: veteran Socceroo.

for years. The same as the Slaters and Farinas - why retire?"

Farina seems likely to restrict himself to playing for his French club Strasbourg, while Arnold will probably play out his career in Belgium.

However, Slater was so disturbed by the loss, he couldn't bare to consider not giving the World Cup another shot.

"No way I'll retire, I'm proud to play for my country," said Slater who is contracted to the French club Lens.

"And I hope Arnie (Arnold) does the same

thing.

The patriotic Arnold was too upset to discuss his future after the game.

Meanwhile, Thomson plans to go ahead with a scheme to get the national team back in the limelight early next year.

"We're on a roll now," he said.

"We will probably play again in February — we're talking about (a tournament with) Ghana, Japan and Denmark."

"We are marketable now. People want to see us. The days are gone when they watched the opposition ... they now want to watch us."



ARGENTINE PAPERS PRAISE AUSSIE EFFORTS



The Socceroos before their Sydney match against Argentina.

AUSTRALIA'S effort against Argentina in the World Cup qualifier in the River Plate cauldron drew widespread praise in Buenos Aires although the Socceroos' occasionally rough handling of man of the match, Diego Maradona, was frowned on.

Argentina won the match 1-0 but had to rely on an own goal from Australian defender Alex Tobin to make the difference before 80,000 howling fans and a television audience of tens of millions around the globe.

The whole Argentine nation stopped to watch or listen to the game with about 1,500 media representatives on hand to see the two-time world champions grab the 24th and last place in next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

Rarely does a team do much else but defend against

Argentina at River Plate and Australia was no different.

However, the Socceroos covered themselves in glory, hustling and bustling the most successful team in world soccer over the past 15 years and they went close to snatching an equaliser with some enthusiastic pushes late in the game.

There was a collective sigh of relief from local media that Argentina had managed to secure its "rightful" place in the World Cup.

And the national newspaper Cronica said it was appropriate that the world's most acclaimed player, Maradona, was the key to Argentina's success.

"Diego KO's the boxing kangaroo," the paper proclaimed.

The 33-year-old made it his personal mission to revive Argentina's Cup campaign after his country suffered a shock 5-0 loss to Colombia earlier this year.

That defeat brought Maradona out of international retirement. He lost weight, trained with renewed fervour and put aside personal differences with a number of teammates and officialdom.

"As it should be, the number one of the game was Maradona," Cronica said.

Television showed highlights of Maradona's performance with special emphasis on the Socceroos' committed defence.

Maradona was brought down a number of times, although Australian coach

Eddie Thomson was quick to point out "he knows when to look for the free-kick".

Newspapers noted the Australians were torrid in defence although most agreed their challenges were rarely crude, if robust.

The English-language Buenos Aires Herald said "the Australians stopped many attacks with rough play ... it seemed obvious that man for man they were not the better players, but they were fast."

Another newspaper, Clarin, assessed the Socceroos as "limited".

"But they have neatness and order for what they lack in technique."

"They were a tough opponent and showed some problems in Argentina's play."

Most publications, including the broadsheet El Nacion, agreed Argentina

had slice of luck — "carambolazo".

Australian goalkeeper Robbie Zabica, who had been in and out of the side while first choice keeper Mark Bosnich battled injury, Aston Villa officials and his conscience, was widely acknowledged as the Socceroos' best.

Zabica made two excellent saves and was decisive in coming to meet the ball.

A close second was former Red Star Belgrade star Milan Ivanovic.

Playing as the free man, the 32-year-old made a number of brilliant tackles and sparked Australia through the centre of the park.

The Argentine press also pointed out how badly Ned Zelic was missed, claiming Aurelio Vidmar was no substitute for him.

Australians stop as Socceroos do the country proud

AUSTRALIAN supporters celebrated the Socceroos' display in a 1-0 loss to two-time world champion Argentina rather than lamenting upon the team's failure to qualify the World Cup finals next year in the United States.

Interest in the match had developed throughout Sydney and Melbourne as office workers took early lunches and packed pubs and clubs to watch the match on large television screens.

Large screens were wheeled out into some offices, while in others groups of workers huddled around smaller sets, shielded from interruptions by a noticeable drop in the number of telephone calls.

Coffee shops and bars in inner city Italian and Greek areas were well stocked with patrons glued to the television and a strong coffee.

A desperate Australian diplomat in Port Moresby rang AAP in Brisbane after fulltime to find out the score, while an expatriate Aussie in Beijing also phoned for the score.

They heard how Australia's bid to qualify for the second time in the World Cup finals ended when an freakish own goal gave two times world champion Argentina a 1-0 win.

Argentina took the lead unexpectedly in the 59th minute when midfielder Fernando Redondo, the outstanding player for the home team, found striker Gabriel Batistuta on the right.

Batistuta attempted to centre but his shot deflected off the leg of defender Alex Tobin and looped over goalkeeper Robert Zabica. Despite the loss Federal Sports Minister Ros Kelly said the team's performance had "celebrated our maturity in soccer". "It's a real pinnacle in our development, we're now taken seriously as a soccer nation," she said.

"The boys played really well, it was just fantastic."

A packed auditorium of 200 people watched the match live from Buenos Aires at National Soccer League club Sydney Olympic, at Hurlstone Park in Sydney's western suburbs.

Sydney Olympic's administration manager Stephen Thompson said the match created such tension that a noise-meter connected to the club's power supply switched off the video screening the match at crucial moments.

"The general feeling was that they were really proud of the way Australia played and they were really impressed with Diego Maradona of course," Thompson said.

"We're all quite proud. No-one would have thought four or five years ago that we would have been playing the South American champion for a World Cup spot."

"They were upset because of our missed chances and the Argentine goal was more good luck than good management."

Further west at Bossley Park, another 200 people packed the Marconi Club to view the match on a similar video screen, while about 80 people watched at the Heidelberg United Club in Melbourne's northern suburbs and more than a hundred had been at the Melbourne BUSC club.

Elsewhere, the normally packed public galleries of the Sydney and Melbourne Stock Exchanges were depleted, as people crowded into watch the game on screen at Sydney's Australia Square. In Sydney, the New South Wales Cricket Association coaching director and three development officers tuned in to watch the match.

However some Brisbane clubs reported minimal interest around kickoff time, with only one of eight clubs or pubs contacted by AAP holding special functions for the biggest match in Australian soccer history.

The Brisbane Broncos Rugby League clubhouse at Red Hill, didn't show the game with patrons watched a boxing match on SKY television, while Perry Park, the home of Queensland soccer, couldn't even show the match because it doesn't receive Australia's main soccer channel, SBS.

One of the city's most popular hotels, the Breakfast Creek, had the match on but at half-time there were only two regulars at the bar playing poker machines.

However, the Australian National Hotel in South Brisbane held a breakfast function for 200 guests but most of them were there to watch Ireland's 1-1 draw with Northern Ireland.

THE OFFSIDE - WITH DARREN ALLY

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WILD NIGHT AT RIVER PLATE

The disappointment of defeat was all-consuming for a while after the 1-0 loss last Thursday, but when the pain subsides a little the Socceroos will be cherish memories of the night they played at the packed River Plate Stadium against Argentina.

"It was absolutely incredible. I'll never have



another experience like it," said French-based midfielder Robbie Slater.

Captain Paul Wade, who played at the stadium in front of 30,000 last year, said the experience before a packed house of nearly 80,000 was "everything I thought it would be".

Argentine-born Australian trainer Raul Blanco had warned the players they would never experience anything quite as intimidating, but he could not prepare them for the howls and whistles which greeted the Socceroos arrival on the pitch.

In a smart move, the Australians came onto the field 45 minutes before kickoff and had a long warm up.

The crowd, made up of about 65,000 paying customers and 16,000 special entries, let it all hang out as the upstarts from Australia strutted about on the bumpy



pitch.

The stadium literally shook as the fans bounced around on the terraces singing and gesturing towards the Aussies.

Firecrackers added to the cacophony, which only subsided as spectators watched a small section of a terrace do battle with police.

In what local newspapers described as battles between two "barras" or gangs, 13 people were hurt.

In between fighting

each other and the police the troublemakers indulged in frightening acts of stupidity, flinging themselves or others down the steep terraces with only a single barrier preventing someone from toppling tens of metres onto the crowd below.

But for the most part, the passionate Argentine fans were good humoured and they paid the Socceroos the ultimate compliment with warm applause after the match.



Argentinian fans at Sydney Airport last month.

SOCCEROOS CROSS THEY PLAYED HOME FIRST



SEVERAL of Australia's soccer heroes returned home convinced they weren't given the best chance to win the World Cup qualifying tie against Argentina.

But Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson doesn't agree and feels his team was not disadvantaged by playing the vital second leg in front of 60,000 screaming Argentinian fans.

The players believe the Australian Soccer Federation acted in its own interests rather than those of the team by agreeing to Thomson's request to play the first leg in Sydney on October 31.

That match ended in a 1-1 draw meaning Australia had to beat Argentina or secure a 2-2 draw or better in last week's return leg in an intimidating atmosphere at the River Plate Stadium to

progress to the World Cup finals in the US.

Argentina needed only a 0-0 draw, but snatched a 1-0 victory through an own goal by Australian defender Alex Tobin.

"There wasn't much chance of upsetting them at home when all they needed was a draw, but who knows what could have happened if we'd come here first and only lost 1-0," one player said.

Some believe the ASF, fearing the Socceroos would not be competitive against the twice world champions, asked for the first match be played in Sydney to ensure a capacity crowd.

"From a player's point of view I felt let down," said French-based striker Frank Farina before last Wednesday's match.

Australia's dangerman

against Argentina Robbie Slater was also disappointed.

"As great as the game was in Sydney, I think that's where we lost," Slater said.

"We dominated them in Sydney and I can only say what if — if we had played the first game here ... there are a lot of guys who would say that."

But Thomson stuck by the decision.

He said playing the first leg in Sydney didn't make any difference.

"If we went to Buenos Aires for the first game it could have been two or three nil, who can tell," said Thomson.

"We weren't in a position to bargain either."

"The thing was we gave away a silly goal in Sydney."

"You come here with a 1-0 lead and you've got them

under all sorts of pressure because they don't score (many) goals at home."

Meanwhile the Argentine media has paid tribute to the Socceroos' determination on Wednesday night, but the headlines were dominated by the man of the match Diego Maradona.

"As it should be the number one of the game was Maradona," said the Cronica newspaper which headlined its story, Diego KO's the Boxing Kangaroo.

Argentina became the 24th and final team to qualify for the Cup finals with Wednesday night's victory.

Australia returns to the drawing board but is buoyed by the prospect of playing its next series of qualifiers through Asia rather than tripping around the world to battle all comers.



Aurelio Vidmar: lost the midfield battle to Ferando Redondo, who was the star of the second leg at the River Plate Stadium.



PLAYER RATINGS

BY STEPHEN COPPING



ROBERT ZABICA 7

Made three great saves but his position at the far post when Batistuta's cross rebounded off Tobin must be questioned. His reactions appeared slow. However, his first half save from Batistuta gave him the necessary confidence to come out for the ball and deal with most of the high balls. Zabica has now firmly established himself as the Soccerroos' number two and should be around for France '98.



JASON VAN BLERK 5

Struggled at times to get any momentum going down the left flank. Was caught in possession on a number of occasions. Doubts still surround his international future although coach Thomson has faith in the Go Ahead Eagles professional. Very left footed and most seasoned internationals will punish that weakness. At 25, has enough time to establish himself and is likely to add to his 17 caps.



ROBBIE SLATER 5

As so often in football only those truly gifted can perform at a high standard match after match. Slater made too many sloppy passes and lost the ball on too many occasions, especially in the second half. Wasted two important free kicks and his lack of close skill saw him dispossessed by his midfield marker Simeone. Coach Thomson has indicated that he wants Slater to continue his international career.



MILAN IVANOVIC 8

Outstanding. Ivanovic reads the game so well. He intercepted Argentina's attacks on numerous occasions. He was solid in the air and his understanding with Tobin and Durakovic proves that by keeping a regular contingent of players together, a better team emerges. At almost 32, Ivanovic has no long-term international future, but perhaps he should be involved in some capacity to guide youngsters like Matthew Bingley into the team.



TONY VIDMAR 6

Did enough not to be substituted, but was replaced by Veart in the second half. Criticised for losing his position but, at times, was linking up well with the midfield, which van Blerk failed to do. Made some telling passes and should have had a penalty in the 16th minute when he was brought down by Simeone. While the Ruggeri foul grabbed the headlines, Vidmar was denied a penalty by the incompetence of the referee. Has an international future.



GRAHAM ARNOLD 5

Arnold has been a loyal Soccerroo since his debut eight years ago. Now 30, he has nowhere to go regarding international career. Questions must be asked why Arnold was preferred to Veart for this game. Arnold lacked pace and mobility against an organised and experienced Argentina defence. In defence of the veteran, he failed to get the ball during the game as the midfield couldn't get past Ruggeri and Co.



MEHMET DURAKOVIC 7

Another strong performance from Durakovic. Silenced the explosive talents of Balbo, and while not emerging from his defensive duties on many occasions, he saved the Soccerroos with a world-class tackle on Batistuta in the first half. At 28, he is unlikely to be involved in the Soccerroos' next World Cup campaign. If Durakovic was four years younger, an overseas career would be his next move.



PAUL WADE 6

Did a lot more than man-mark Maradona. Ran all over the River Plate pitch in his record-breaking 65th international. Played a true captain's role - he led by example. The creative part of his game was cancelled due to his Maradona commitments. At 30, Wade will be eager to continue his international career, but Thomson must look to the likes of Corica and Polak to dominate the midfield over the next five years.



FRANK FARINA 6

Battled in the first half to get involved in the game. Should have played a more attacking role rather than be restricted due to midfield duties. Farina has been one of Australia's best players over the last decade, but perhaps, with his club commitments, his international career will have to come to an end. The second half must have been a huge disappointment to the French based star.



ALEX TOBIN 8

Outstanding. Great in the tackle, in the air and on the ground. Tobin gave everything, but he will always be remembered for that fateful touch on Batistuta's pass which resulted in the only goal. At 27, Tobin will lose too much speed over the next few years to be considered a likely candidate for the next World Cup campaign. A great servant for club and country who should have won more than 36 caps.



AURELIO VIDMAR 6

Did all the running required of any modern midfielder player. However, on too many occasions he was not having the influential role that was expected of him. He was nullified by Redondo, who out-shouldered him to the ball. When Vidmar did get some time on the ball, he was too often brought down by Perez or Simeone. At 26, he will form a skilful midfield partnership with Corica - a delight for the purists.



CARL VEART 7

Had a snap shot which was the Soccerroos' last injury time opportunity. Did enough during his brief appearance to suggest that he should not only have come on earlier, but should have started the game ahead of Arnold. His 20 metre run which took him past three players late in the second half showed that his pace would have caused the Argentine defence havoc.

ARGENTINE PLAYER RATINGS



SERGIO GOYCOCHEA 7

Solid performance in goal. Made one outstanding reflex save from a miscue from Simeone which he parried for a corner. At 30 will undoubtedly add to his 42 caps. Despite being suspect in dealing with crosses in the box he looked untroubled when dealing with high balls. Organised his defence along with Ruggeri and Vasquez. Has only enhanced his ranking as the third best 'keeper in the world.



CARLOS MAC ALISTER 5

Had a disappointing game. Strong in the tackle but his distribution was woeful. Inclined to lift his head and just pump the ball up front, hoping for Balbo and Batistuta to pick up the pieces. Thankfully for Argentina, Slater was having a poor game and he didn't have to many players running at him. With his late tackles and volatile nature, a skilful winger would cause him many problems.



DIEGO MARADONA 9

One of the most remarkable comebacks in football. He made over 14 telling passes, created five chances for his team mates and showed the world that great players never lose their touch. Combined with Redondo superbly - a partnership that looked like it had been in operation for years rather than just two games. Created the game's first real chance when his left foot pass found the head of Batistuta. A hero.



JOSE CHAMOT 6

A battling performance from the right back. However, he rarely got into attacking positions. Dealt with Arnold, Farina and van Blerk with ease. Won most contests in the air. Covered for Ruggeri, who went forward at set pieces. At 24, the Italian based defender, he plays for Foggia, has won a World Cup place with Argentina, but if the 1986 winners are to trouble West Germany he will need to go forward more.



HUGO PEREZ 8

Coach Basile kept faith in Perez after his below-par performance in Sydney. Had an outstanding game, full of running and his passing, so often out of sync in the first leg, was impressive. Combined well with Simeone in midfield. With confidence he could be one of the stars of USA '94. Has a lethal shot and with more exposure to the international arena will develop into a fine player. Big future.



GABRIEL BATISTUTA 7

Tireless worker. Created the goal after receiving the ball from Perez. Held the ball up well and showed enough pace to continually worry the likes of Tobin and Ivanovic. Had two good chances to score, being denied by a lunging tackle from Durakovic, then by the agility of Zabica. Has the ability to operate on the flanks and in the centre. He showed all the flair that is reputedly worth \$20 million on the transfer market.



SERGIO VAZQUEZ 7

Proved beyond doubt that he is at his best in the sweeper position. Very elegant in coming forward with the ball and often played the safe ball out of defence. Good in the air, and Arnold could not beat him for pace or skill. Did a lot of running and looked a better player in the second leg when he had the experienced Ruggeri to play alongside with. At 28, will be involved in next year's World Cup.



FERNANDO REDONDO 9

Man of the Match in the first and second leg. Outstanding performance - especially in the first half. Made over 10 world class passes including starting the move that resulted in the goal. Was just too strong for Aurelio Vidmar, who rarely got past him. Will become the focus of a possible transfer from Tenerife to Italy where he is currently valued at \$12 million. One of the best midfielders in the world.



ABEL BALBO 5

Impressed in the first leg but was almost unnoticed at the River Plate Stadium. He was kept quiet by Durakovic. Rarely got involved in the pace of the game and his combination with Batistuta didn't hit off. Balbo was replaced by midfielder Zapata in the second half as coach Basile shored up his midfield. Balbo will be back, and at 27 still has a big part to play in USA '94.



OSCAR RUGGERI 8

Organised the defence. Had a superb game although he was lucky to be on the pitch when he deliberately brought down Arnold via a professional foul. Won all the aerial duels and his distribution out of defence was nothing short of perfect. Often got forward at set pieces and should have scored from a Maradona pass late in the second half. Earned his 78 cap against Australia. Could go on to make it 100.



DIEGO SIMEONE 8

Made a superb return to the Argentina team after missing out on the first leg in Sydney. Dominated the midfield with Redondo and Perez. Was running all over the park for his team and allowed Maradona enough time on the ball for him to weave his magic. Had two chances in the first and second half, both created by Maradona, which he should have troubled Zabica more than he did.



GUSTAVO ZAPATA 6

Languid midfield player who slowed things down when he replaced striker Balbo in the second half. Showed enough discipline when he came on to suggest that he will be a valuable member of any Argentina squad. However, with Perez playing well he will now have to wait for his opportunity to get back into the side. But at only 26 should add to his 28 caps over the next four or five years.



Own goal was a killer

BY ANTHONY
RAINERI

ARGENTINA 1 AUSTRALIA 0

The gallant Soccerroos withstood the brilliance of Diego Maradona and company, ignored the intimidating capacity crowd at the River Plate Stadium, brushed aside the awesome reputations and multi-million dollar price tags of their opponents and contended against some inconsistent referee decisions.

But they did not bank on Mother Nature's contribution to the goal which killed their dreams of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

The 59th minute goal that sunk the Australians in the return leg against Argentina last Thursday (Sydney time) was justifiably marked "due to circumstances beyond our control" by the otherwise impeccable Soccerroo defence.

With the play midfield, Fiorentina's multi-million dollar striker Gabriel Batistuta received the one from Maradona and embarked on a long run down the right flank.

With the byline fast approaching and Soccerroo defender Alex Tobin closing in for a slide tackle, Batistuta answered the call from the penalty box of teammate Abel Balbo and fired in a cross.

But the ball deflected off Tobin's outstretched foot



and soared into the air, sharply changing the angle of the intended cross.

Zabica, who had prepared himself at the near post, looked on helplessly as the ball sailed over his head and seemingly over the crossbar.

But, then, in a moment which will live forever in his mind, Zabica watched in horror as the ball was forced back by a strong gust of wind and into the net.

Balbo and Mehmet Durakovic, who were next to the goal line waiting for the cross, stared on in disbelief at the hand Mother Nature dealt their teams.

"I thought the ball was going to go out," a shattered Zabica said after the match. "It was just amazing. What can you say?"

Zabica had no need to justify his performance despite Argentina's goal.

The Adelaide City player was a hero in a team which fought the bravest of battles

against the toughest of opponents.

Three times Zabica's reflexes saved certain goals.

In the 31st minute he tipped over the bar a powerful Oscar Ruggeri header, two minutes later he thwarted Balbo by blocking a close-up shot with his legs, and in the 76th minute he palmed to safety another Ruggeri header.

The Soccerroos toiled like soldiers in armed combat but ironically it was a misclearance by Diego Simeone inside the penalty box that caused the Argentines most anxiety.

The ball spun backwards towards the Argentine goal at lightning speed and only a spectacular diving save by goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea prevented an embarrassing own goal.

Twice the Soccerroos were victims of what seemed professional fouls but both times Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen punished with only yellow cards.

The first incident occurred after 16 minutes when veteran striker Graham Arnold was about to play a one-on-one with the goalkeeper until he was pulled back by his shirt by Ruggeri.

In the other incident just before half-time, Frank Farina was rampaging towards the goal when Sergio Vazquez threw himself in

front of the attacker and stopped his progress.

An emotional Soccerroo captain Paul Wade, now Australia's most capped player, paid homage to the victors.

"Forget the crowd factor, forget the pitch factor, Argentina are a class side," he said. "They are a credit to their country."

"But we should still celebrate we got this far in the World Cup."

AUSTRALIA: Robert Zabica, Alex Tobin, Mehmet Durakovic, Milan Ivanovic, Tony Vidmar (Carl Veart 65th), Jason van Blerk, Paul Wade, Robbie Slater, Aurelio Vidmar, Frank Farina and Graham Arnold.

Coach: Eddie Thomson.

ARGENTINA: Sergio Goycochea, Jose Chamot, Oscar Ruggeri, Sergio Vazquez, Carlos

MacAllister, Diego Simeone, Fernando Redondo, Hugo Perez, Diego Maradona, Abel Balbo (Gustavo Zapato 69th) and Gabriel Batistuta.

Coach: Alfio Basile.

REFEREE: Peter Mikkelsen (Denmark).

SCORER: Alex Tobin, own goal (59th).

YELLOW CARDS:

Argentina: Oscar Ruggeri (16th), Sergio Vazquez (40th) and Diego Simeone (84th). Australia: Mehmet Durakovic (22nd), Aurelio Vidmar (25th) and Milan Ivanovic (28th).



Aurelio Vidmar: missed Ned Zelic's promptings in midfield.

MINUTE BY MINUTE ...

11.15am (Sydney time)...Argentina, with a strong wind behind their backs, kick off.

6th...Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta charges towards the goal in the first dangerous passage of play but he is legally tackled from behind by Soccerroo defender Alex Tobin.

9th...Jason van Blerk fouls Diego Maradona who wriggles in pain on the ground for a couple of minutes before resuming play after receiving treatment from the Argentine physiotherapist. Argentine fans breathe a collective sigh of relief.

12th...In an almost identical move which led to the first goal in Sydney, a Maradona cross from the right finds an unmarked Batistuta whose header on the turn just misses the right post and a diving Robert Zabica.

16th...A loose ball between the Argentine penalty box and the half-way falls in front of Graham Arnold who braces himself for a 1-1 with goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea. But to Arnold's horror, he is held back by his shirt by Argentine stopper Oscar Ruggeri. The Soccerroo camp claim a professional foul and hence a sending off but Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen issues a yellow card instead. Aurelio Vidmar kicks the ensuing freekick half a metre over the crossbar.

30th...Abel Balbo runs onto a Maradona pass in the penalty box and dribbles past Durakovic. The Argentine striker is about to shoot a certain goal from close up when the same defender challenges again this time from behind and sweeps the ball clear.

31st...Maradona receives a short corner on the byline and lobs the ball to

Batistuta at the edge of the box. His shot is miskicked to Ruggeri whose powerful header from close up is spectacularly tipped over the bar by Zabica.

32nd...The Soccerroos claim a penalty when Tony Vidmar is pushed by Simeone in the box. Referee Mikkelsen waves play on.

33rd...Balbo, making the most of an Argentine counter-attack, breaks the Soccerroo defence and dribbles towards the goal. His shot is brilliantly blocked by Zabica's legs.

40th...In a bid to end an electrifying run by Frank Farina up the middle of the field, Sergio Vazquez throws himself in front of the Soccerroo speedster. The Australian camp again claim a professional foul but referee Mikkelsen again pulls out only a yellow card. Slater belts the ensuing freekick — which was within shooting distance — way over the crossbar.

46th...Referee Mikkelsen misses a Maradona handball in the Soccerroo penalty box. The ball falls to Simeone whose clear shot at goal — fortunately for Mikkelsen — is just wide.

12.03pm (Sydney time)...Mikkelsen blows half-time after allowing three minutes of injury time.

SECOND HALF

12.20pm...The Soccerroos kick-off with a strong wind behind their backs.

55th...Tony Vidmar — running onto a Frank Farina pass — dribbles close to the goal but his shot just misses.

57th...Argentina on the attack but Batistuta handballs in the Soccerroo penalty box. Freekick to Australia.

59th...Batistuta races down the right

wing with Alex Tobin in hot pursuit. With the byline fast approaching, Batistuta fires in a cross. The ball deflects off Tobin's outstretched foot, rockets into the sky, over the head of a helpless Zabica and into the goal — much to the disbelief of both Balbo and Durakovic who were waiting in front of the goal for the cross. 1-0 to Argentina.

63rd...Maradona falls to the ground "injured". Many observers see this as the first of many Argentina plays to waste time.

66th...A Robbie Slater shot from outside the box ricochets backwards off Simeone's foot at lightning speed. Only the save of the match by Goycochea — he parried the ball wide of the post — prevents a spectacular own goal.

67th...Paul Wade scores from a header but is ruled offside.

71st...Simeone is in the clear with only Zabica to beat but he is skilfully and legally tackled from behind by van Blerk.

76th...A powerful Ruggeri header only metres on front of Australia's goal is blocked by Zabica.

78th...Soccerroo substitute Carl Veart is fouled by Vazquez on the edge of the penalty box. The freekick is wasted when Arnold kicks it into the wall.

80th...Batistuta on the counter-attack has only Milan Ivanovic to beat but the sweeper tackles the striker and dribbles the ball to safety.

91st...Veart on the edge of the Argentine penalty box volleys just wide of the right post.

1.08pm...Mikkelsen blows full-time after allowing three minutes of injury-time. Australia's 1994 World Cup campaign is over.



Diego Maradona: flying high.



WORLD CUP FALL-OUT

TAYLOR SHOULD QUIT GERMANY WARNS THE WORLD

The critics have been calling for his head for six months. But England manager Graham Taylor was in no hurry to quit, despite his team's failure to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1978.

"The players have their careers to look forward to and I have my career to look forward to," Taylor



said. "I shall continue doing the job until or unless that situation changes."

Taylor spoke the morning after England's World Cup elimination. England beat San Marino 7-1 in Bologna, Italy, but the result was academic since the Netherlands beat Poland 3-1.

As expected, Taylor was vilified in Thursday's tabloids. The Sun called him "the worst England manager of all time," while the Mirror published a resignation letter with a blank space for Taylor's signature.

Even if Taylor refuses to resign, his bosses — the English Football Association — could sack him anyway. A decision could come soon.

"I am not going to discuss this publicly until I have talked with my colleagues," said FA chairman Bert Millichip. "But I will say this: It's not something I'm going to thrust under the table and forget about."

Taylor has been in charge of the England team for three years with a mandate to get the team to next year's World Cup in the United States.

Not only has he failed,



Graham Taylor: can't last.

but his spell as manager has had far more lows than highs: losing 2-0 to the United States in the US Cup in June, failing to win a game at last year's European Championships, and a 2-0 World Cup loss to Norway in probably England's worst performance for a decade.

"A football manager hurts whenever he loses a game," Taylor said. "When you reach the top of your profession you want to be successful. When that doesn't happen, of course it hurts."

But he suggested his

record was at least as good as that of the man he succeeded, Bobby Robson, who took England to the World Cup semi-finals in 1990 and now is in charge of the Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon.

"Bobby was a non-qualifier for his first tournament (the European Championships of 1984) and was a qualifier for the World Cup. My team was a qualifier for the European Championship and then a non-qualifier for the World Cup."

England will now sit out the World Cup until qualification starts in

1996 for the 1998 tournament in France. England does not have to qualify for the 1996 European Championships because it will host the competition and receives an automatic berth.

So the next two years will be spent playing exhibition games only. Some say England's soccer authorities should use the opportunity to replace the present managerial structure with something like the successful formula used in countries such as World Cup holder Germany.

The German system is to groom future coaches under the guidance of the present one. Bertie Vogts served under Franz Beckenbauer in 1990, and now Rainer Bonhof is No.2 to Vogts and expected to take over for the next World Cup.

"I have made my point very, very clearly that publicly I will say nothing until discussions, if they are completely relevant to my position, have taken place. As far as I am concerned I will honor that, whatever anyone else will do. It's up to them."

"I will have to see what my career brings me."

Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, hinted Taylor could be kept on in another role.

"We must make sure we don't throw the baby out with the bath water," he said. "Experience at international level is a hard-won, precious commodity. We and Graham Taylor have been very unlucky and I feel very sorry for him."

"If anything positive comes out of all this, it's the realization that the game needs to be shaken up," Kelly said.

Taylor has complained that he wasn't given enough power to force clubs to release players for international duty.

World Cup holder Germany began its warm-up for next year's tournament by beating Brazil 2-1 in a friendly match last Thursday in Cologne.

In a whirlwind three minutes, Germany twice stamped its authority on the match. Guido Buchwald opened the scoring in the 38th minute, but Evair equalised two minutes later.

Then in the 41st minute, Andreas Moller got the winner.

Andreas Brehme, who scored the winning goal for Germany in the 1990 World Cup final, earned his 75th cap in his first international match for nearly a year and a half.

And it was also a milestone in the career of Lothar Matthaus who earned a German record of 104 caps, beating 103 by former sweeper and ex-national coach Franz Beckenbauer.

In December, Germany travels to the United States to play Argentina and the US team, before facing Mexico in Mexico City.

England, Italy, and another country yet to be



Lothar Matthaus: his German team is on fire.

chosen will travel to Germany next year, before the Germans put the polishing touch on their preparations in June with matches in Vienna against Austria and in Toronto against Canada.

GERMANY: Bodo Illgner, Lothar Matthaus, Jurgen Kohler, Thomas Helmer, Thomas Hassler, Stefan Effenberg, Guido Buchwald, Andreas

Moller, Andreas Brehme, Jurgen Klinsmann (Maurizio Gaudino 84), Karl-Heinz Riedle (Ulf Kirsten, 34)

BRAZIL: Soares Ronaldo, Jorginho, Marcio Santos (Mozer, 46), Gomes, Branco, Rai (Valber, 67), Dunga, Zinho, Sergio, Edmundo, Evair (Edilson, 67)

Attendance: 51,000
Referee: Jan Damgaard (Denmark)

YORATH AWAITS HIS FUTURE

Wales manager Terry Yorath fired a double broadside at his employers and the English Premiership as he waited for a decision on his future following his side's latest World Cup flop.

Yorath slammed the Football Association of Wales for dithering over his new contract and blamed the premiership structure for contributing to his side's failure to qualify for the finals once again.

Yorath's contract runs out on December 31 and the FAW have set up a committee to consider a new deal for the man who has been in full-time charge since June 1991, but he is unhappy at being left in limbo.

The Wales boss stormed: "Everyone knows what my ideal scenario would be. I've had a couple of offers, but the offer I wanted has not come."

"I've got a wife and kids and a mortgage. I've always laid my cards on the table. I think this



Terry Yorath: no time for ditherers.

should have been sorted out by now.

"I just think that from my point of view I would have loved somebody from the FAW to have asked me to talk about my contract or even part

of it.

"I've not had any news. I've had a couple of people contact me from abroad — from Greece and Turkey — and those offers are still on the table."

ARGENTINA SHOOT FOUR

Police in Buenos Aires shot four people, with one man being partially paralysed, following violent incidents in the wake of Argentina's qualifying for the 1994 World Cup.

Argentina advanced to the 24-team finals in the United States with a 1-0 victory over Australia. Celebrations went from the stadium to the streets, with violence following.

Police fired bullets to disperse violent crowds. A mother of one of the victims said police fired into crowds with no regard.

Two of the shooting victims were struck with rubber bullets while two others were hit with standard fire.

Basile stays

Alfio Basile, criticised for Argentina's recent sluggish play, will remain national team coach through next year's World Cup, the country's football association said.

After Argentina won a place in the Cup finals with a 1-0 victory over Australia, Basile said he would wait before deciding whether to continue as coach.

But Julio Grondona, president of the Argentine Soccer Association, said today that Basile "is the coach of the Argentine team until the World Cup is over."

Basile, who led Argentina to a 33-game undefeated streak from 1991 until this year, was criticised by fans and the local press for the team's two



ALFIO BASILE

losses to Colombia in South American cup qualifier games.

He also was assailed for the team's lackluster performance and in the 1-1 draw in Sydney on October 31.



Seven's not enough

— GROUP 2 —

ENGLAND 7 SAN MARINO 1

England overcame the shock of conceding a goal after only 10 seconds to beat tiny San Marino 7-1 here tonight but still failed to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in the United States.

England went into the game needing to win by seven goals and hope that Poland beat the Netherlands. But neither scenario occurred.

Davide Gualtieri punished a mistake by England captain Stuart Pearce in the game's first attack.

But England hit back with four goals from Ian Wright, two from Paul Ince and one from Les Ferdinand.

Last time, in Italy 1990, England made the semi-finals, losing in a penalty shootout to eventual winner Germany.

This time, because the Netherlands won 3-1 in Poland in a game played

ENGLAND



at the same time, England could have scored 10 or more and still not qualified.

But it was embarrassed by conceding such an early goal.

Pearce made a weak pass back to keeper David Seaman, Gualtieri nipped in between and rolled the ball into the net.

It was only the second World Cup goal San Marino had ever scored, the other being in a 4-1 loss to Turkey 13 months ago. It was also believed to be one of the fastest goals ever scored in international play.

England's stars appeared so stunned they took a while to do any serious damage at the other end.

Pearce tried to atone for his blunder with a

25-yard free kick in the 13th minute but San Marino keeper Pier Luigi Benedettini made a great save.

England's crosses were poor and the equaliser did not arrive until the 22nd minute.

Wright was tackled near the edge of the San Marino penalty area and the ball rolled to Ince, who fired home from 25 yards.

Ferdinand headed weakly at the keeper and Wright shot too high before England struck ahead in the 34th minute.

Benedettini made a poor stop from David Platt's shot and the ball rolled out to Wright to fired home the rebound.

Four minutes later it was 3-1, thanks to more poor goalkeeping by Benedettini. He only got a leg to a through ball and virtually passed it to Ferdinand, who tapped the ball into an empty net.

The second half was only 33 seconds old when Wright scored England's fourth.

Andy Sinton floated

USA94



over a centre from the left and the unmarked Arsenal striker beat Benedettini with a downward header that bounced over the keeper.

England continued to play disjointed soccer in an almost deserted stadium with only 2,378 fans watching.

Some 500 English supporters stood in one small section of the 40,000 capacity Renato Dall'Ara stadium but most locals fans were watching the Italy-Portugal game live on TV.

San Marino almost scored a second when Nicola Baccocchi powered a 25-yard shot that hit the foot of Seaman's post.

Wright miscued a header well wide but 17 minutes from the end,

England struck again. Ferdinand crossed from the left and Ince was there to stab the ball in from close range.

Five minutes later, Ferdinand headed on a through ball from Gary Pallister and Wright was left with a simple task of shooting past Benedettini.

In injury time, Wright slipped through the San Marino defence again to scored his fourth. But by then the Dutch were coasting in Poznan and England's World Cup dream was over.

SAN MARINO: Pier Luigi Benedettini, Mauro Valentini, Mirco Genneri, Loris Zanotti, Claudio Canti, William Guerra, Pierangelo Manzoroli, Pier Dominico della Valle, Nicola Baccocchi, Massimo Bonini, Davide Gualtieri.

ENGLAND: David Seaman, Lee Dixon, Gary Pallister, Des Walker, Stuart Pearce, Stuart Ripley, David Platt, Paul Ince, Andy Sinton, Ian Wright, Les Ferdinand.

ALL-IRISH GAME DRAWN

— GROUP 3 —

NORTHERN IRELAND 1 REPUBLIC OF IRELAND 1

The Republic of Ireland scrambled through to the World Cup finals on goal average after a 1-1 draw with Northern Ireland last Wednesday.

Northern Ireland took a deserved 74th minute lead in its final European Group Three clash with a spectacular drive by Jimmy Quinn, but substitute Alan McLoughlin levelled the score a minute later.

Ireland booked its ticket to the 1994 US finals by virtue of having scored more goals than Denmark, who were beaten 1-0 by group winners Spain in Seville.

Ireland and European champions Denmark finished with the same number of points and identical goal difference, but the Irish scored four more in their 12 qualifiers.

Police clamped a huge security cordon around Windsor Park, Belfast, after the worst month of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland in more than a decade with more than 20 people killed.

But no incidents were reported before or during the game.

Ireland, after an inept 3-1 defeat by Spain in Dublin last month, needed an outright win to guarantee their place in the finals and were unsure when the whistle blew whether the draw had been enough to see them through to America.

"Did Spain win? Can you tell us the result," Ireland striker Niall Quinn asked reporters as he left the field.

"I was worried when Jimmy Quinn scored and I'm still worried now."

Quinn's teammates started to celebrate in earnest when they heard of Spain's 1-0 victory which dashed Denmark's hopes.

Northern Ireland's Jimmy Quinn was the outstanding player in a ragged first half which the home side, who have never been defeated by Ireland in Belfast, easily



Jimmy Quinn: scored for Northern Ireland.

dominated.

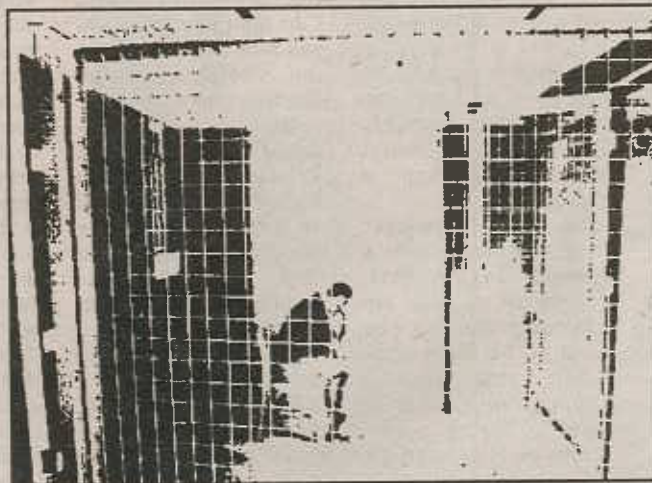
Michael Hughes, the home side's 21-year-old forward, came close just before the interval with an adventurous overhead lob which dropped just wide of Ireland's 'keeper Pat Bonner.

Niall Quinn had two good long range shots on goal but Ireland failed to gel as a side under constant harrying from its northern rivals. Ireland started the second half much more convincingly after strong words from manager Jack Charlton and began to threaten before Northern Ireland broke from defence.

Quinn fired in a shot superbly, sending the home crowd of 10,000 delirious, but their celebrations lasted only a minute before McLoughlin, substituting for Ray Houghton, volleyed in from the edge of the box.

"The players played their hearts out. At 1-0 I thought we'd done it, but I take my hat off to the Irish team for coming back," said Northern Ireland's Billy Bingham in his last game as manager.

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THE HERO OF MILAN



Dino Baggio: became an Italian hero with a vital goal against Portugal.

Late goal sends Italy to USA '94

— GROUP 1 —

ITALY 1
PORTUGAL 0

WorldCup
USA94



Dino Baggio combined with his illustrious namesake Roberto to book Italy's place in the World Cup finals.

Italy, needing a point from its Group One match with Portugal, looked headed for a nervous climax when the Juventus midfielder was set free on the left by a superb pass from substitute Roberto Mancini eight minutes from time.

He carried the ball into the box and cut the ball back for his clubmate Roberto Baggio.

The star of the Italian team saw his shot smothered but as the ball spun away, it fell to Dino Baggio who swept it past Vitor Baia from six yards to relieve the increasingly tense San Siro crowd.

The result will also have been a major relief for the organisers of USA '94 who have been banking on

Arrigo Sacchi's side as a major attraction for the millions of Americans of Italian descent.

And at the end, the frustration proved too much for Portuguese defender Fernando Couto, who earned a red card for lashing out at Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Until the lucky run of the ball that allowed Dino Baggio to score, nothing had gone Italy's way in a match it dominated from beginning to end.

Italian nerves should have been settled in the 66th minute when they were denied a certain penalty.

Lazio striker Casiraghi beat the outrushing Baia to a through ball from Demetrio Albertini and

was pulled down by the Portuguese goalkeeper.

Six minutes earlier Roberto Baggio had come within inches of putting Italy ahead with a fierce drive from a free-kick 25 yards out.

Then just before the penalty appeal, the inspirational Roberto Baggio touched the ball back to Dino Baggio, whose shot thumped into Baia's midriff.

Despite needing to win to ensure they went to the United States, Portugal were content to sit back and soak up the pressure while hoping for a breakaway goal that would enable them to snatch the victory.

But apart from two half-chances in the first period, they never threatened the Italian goal.

Italy had dominated the early exchanges, threatening to overrun their opponents as they won three dangerous free-kicks in the first six minutes.

But all three went



begging and gradually the Portuguese came into the match, looking dangerous on the break and whenever Paulo Futre was allowed to run at the Italian defence.

Italy: Gianluca Pagliuca, Antonio Benarrivo, Franco Baresi, Alessandro Costacurta, Paolo Maldini, Dino Baggio, Roberto Donadoni, Giovanni Stroppa (Demetrio Albertini 60), Giuseppe Signori (Roberto Mancini 76), Roberto Baggio, Pierluigi Casiraghi.

Portugal: Vitor Baia, Joao Pinto, Fernando Couto, Jorge Costa, Veloso, Paulo Sousa, Vitor Paneira, Rui Costa (Domingos 68), Rui Barros, Futre, Joao V. Pinto.

— GROUP 6 —

FRANCE 1 BULGARIA 2

A last minute goal by Emil Kostadinov put Bulgaria into next year's World Cup finals and stunned France in a 2-1 defeat.

Kostadinov, who had equalised an Eric Cantona goal in the first half, took a long ball from Luboslav Penev and slammed the ball into the roof of the net as the Bulgarians celebrated a shock victory.

A month ago France seemed set for a place in the finals with two matches to play at home against Israel and Bulgaria.

But it managed to lose both matches to goals scored in the dying minutes.

Leading 2-1 at home to Israel last month at the Parc des Princes with seven minutes left and with their tickets to America seemingly safely in their pockets, they contrived to lose 3-2.

This time a draw would have been enough and the French got within a minute of booking their World Cup finals berth before Kostadinov struck the killer blow. France looked jittery throughout the match and, though it did most of the attacking, rarely threatened to score.

Cantona's goal in the 31st minute should have reassured them. Didier Deschamps centred for Jean-Pierre Papin to nod down and the Manchester United forward pounced on the ball at the far post.

Instead, the goal seemed to make France careless and sweeper Laurent Blanc was forced to



give away a corner five minutes later after losing the ball twice in succession.

Krassimir Balakov looped over the corner and Kostadinov rose above the defence to head home.

The Bulgarians, knowing only victory would secure their place in the finals, played cautiously from then on, containing the threat from Papin and Cantona by close marking.

But in the last 10 minutes they threw caution to the wind, sending five men up front in a desperate, and ultimately successful, attempt to get the vital goal. A disenchanted 48,000 Paris crowd bayed for the head of coach Gerard Houllier before shocked and disbelieving fans

trailed home sadly after a second totally unexpected reversal in succession.

It was the second successive time that France, semifinalists in the 1982 and 1986 finals, failed to qualify and the World Cup will be the poorer for the absence of players such as Papin, Cantona and Franck Sauzee.

France: Bernard Lama; Marcel Desailly, Laurent Blanc, Alain Roche, Emmanuel Petit; Didier Deschamps, Franck Sauzee (Vincent Guerin 80th), Paul Le Guen, Reynald Pedros; Jean-Pierre Papin (David Ginola 68th), Eric Cantona.

Bulgaria: Borislav Mikhailov; Emil Kremenliev, Petar Hubchev, Trifon Ivanov, Tzanko Tzvetanov (Daniel Borimirov); Yordan Lechkov (Petar Alexandov), Krassimir Balakov, Zlatko Yankov; Emil Kostadinov, Luboslav Penev,

international tally to 21. It was his fifth goal in the qualifiers. Two minutes later dead-ball specialist Bregy drilled his free kick high into the left hand corner to make it 2-0 and the Swiss were well on course. Ohrel made it 3-0 in injury time of the first half as the stadium erupted in frenzy.

Borussia Dortmund's Chapuisat struck in the 61st minute to notch his sixth goal in the qualifying tournament, ensuring a handsome 4-0 Swiss triumph. Switzerland's English coach Roy Hodgson said: "This is the greatest day in my life."

"It has crowned my coaching career. It was a superb team effort and we are deservedly in America next year."

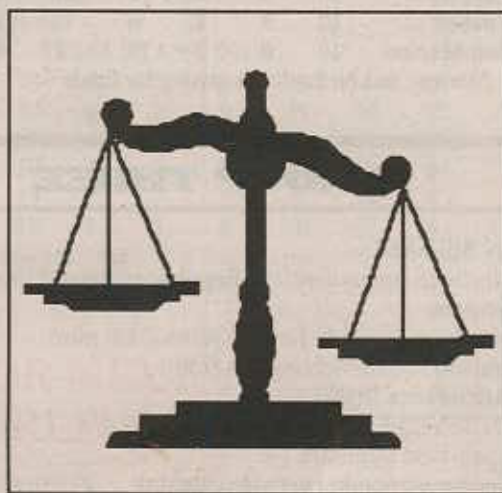
Switzerland: Marco Pascolo, Alain Geiger, Dominique Herr, Marc Hottiger, Yvan Quentin (Kubilay Tuerkyilmaz 65th) Thomas Bickel, Georges Bregy, Christophe Ohrel (Martin Rueda 46th), Alain Sutter, Stephane Chapuisat, Adrian Knup.

Estonia: Mart Poom, Risto Kallaste, Urmas Hepner, Igor Prins, Urmas Kaljend, Indro Olumets, Andrei Borissov, Sergei Bragin, Dzintar Klavan, Martin Reim, Lembit Rajala.

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WORLD CUP

ALL THE I

GROUP ONE

IN VALLETTA:

Scotland beat Malta 2-0

Scorers: Billy McKinley (15th min), Colin Hendry (74th)

Attendance: 7,000

IN ZURICH:

Switzerland beat Estonia 4-0

Scorers: Adrian Knup (32nd min), Georges Bregy (34th), Christophe Ohrel (45th), Stephane Chapuisat (61st)

IN MILAN:

Italy beat Portugal 1-0

Scorer: Dino Baggio (83rd min)

Attendance: 86,000

FINAL STANDINGS

Italy	10	7	2	1	22	7	16
Switzerland	10	6	3	1	23	6	15
Portugal	10	6	2	2	18	5	14
Scotland	10	4	3	3	14	13	11
Malta	10	1	1	8	3	23	3
Estonia	10	0	1	9	1	27	1

Italy and Switzerland qualify for World Cup finals

GROUP TWO

IN POZNAN:

The Netherlands beat Poland 3-1

Scorers:

Poland - Marek Lesniak (12th min)

Netherlands - Dennis Bergkamp (10th, 56th), Ronald de Boer (88th)

Attendance: 19,000

In Bologna:

England beat San Marino 7-1

Scorers:

San Marino - Davide Gualtieri (1st minute)

England - Paul Ince (22nd and 73rd), Ian Wright (34th, 46th, 78th and 90th), Les Ferdinand (38th)

Attendance: 2,378

FINAL STANDINGS

Norway	10	7	2	1	25	5	16
Netherlands	10	6	3	1	29	9	15
England	10	5	3	2	26	9	13
Poland	10	3	2	5	10	15	8
Turkey	10	3	1	6	11	19	7
San Marino	10	0	1	9	2	46	1

Norway and Netherlands qualify for finals

GROUP THREE

IN BELFAST:

Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland drew 1-1

Scorers:

Northern Ireland - Jimmy Quinn (74th min)

Ireland - Alan McLoughlin (75th)

Attendance 10,000

IN SEVILLE:

Spain beat Denmark 1-0

Scorer: Fernando Hierro (63rd min)

Attendance: 40,000

FINAL STANDINGS

Spain	12	8	3	1	27	4	19
Ireland	12	7	4	1	19	6	18
Denmark	12	7	4	1	15	2	18
Nthern Ireland	12	5	3	4	14	13	13
Lithuania	12	2	3	7	8	21	7
Latvia	12	0	5	7	4	21	5
Albania	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

Spain and Ireland qualify for World Cup finals

Mighty Germany

BY ROBERT MILLWARD OF AAP

The last of the 24 qualifiers have made it to next year's World Cup finals in the United States. But is anyone capable of toppling defending champion Germany?

Italy and the Netherlands, two of the powerhouses of Europe, scrambled through on the final day. But England and European champion Denmark won't be going. Neither will the 1998 host, France.

Brazil and Argentina are the World Cup strongmen of South America. But the Argentines needed to scramble through a play-off with Australia and Brazil, with several top players unavailable, lost 2-1 to the Germans in an exhibition game in Cologne.

Nobody, it appears so far, looks strong enough to stop the Germans from making it two wins in a row.

The African qualifiers are showing they have the skills and are getting better organised. Their time will come.

Cameroon made a big impact at the tournament in Italy four years ago, reaching the quarter-finals and is back again. Nigeria is making even faster progress towards being a soccer power in the region.

But both teams lack experience of playing in what is the world's biggest sports event.

Colombia is South America's other leading candidate. But it will have to find greater consistency and keep the lid on some of its ill-disciplined players such as the often inspirational Fausto Asprilla.

The main threats from Europe appear to be Italy and the Netherlands, although Norway has emerged as a surprise candidate.

With AC Milan veteran Franco Baresi at the heart of a well-organised defence, Italy will be difficult to beat. This time it hopes



Lothar Matthaus in action for his club Bayern Munich.

that players of the caliber of Roberto Baggio will add much-needed spark to their attack as Italy chases its fourth World Cup triumph after successes in 1934, '38 and '82.

The Dutch have never won the World Cup but were runners-up in 1974 and 1978. They go to the United States buoyed by the



Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner over the head of team-mate Paul McGrath.

QUALIFIERS

RESULTS

tipped for 1994



rn as coach of their most famous player, Johann Cruyff. They certainly have quality players, such as Inter Milan's Dennis Bergkamp, Barcelona's Ronald Koeman, Frank Rijkaard and currently injured Marco van Basten. Dutch fans hope that in-form Ruud Gullit also may return to the team now that Dick Advocaat is stepping down.

ut Dutch players have been known to let themselves down nicker among themselves and letting egos take over from a spirit. Cruyff's job will be to motivate a team that knows it good but sometimes doesn't try hard enough.

orway wound up top of its group, ahead of the Dutch and land, the two teams who were expected to qualify.

coach Egil Olsen has blended together a team of skilful work-with no superstars.

ike the Dutch and German players, many of them don't even in their own country, Olsen has to recall four of them, Gun-Halle, Stig Inge Bjornebye, Justin Flo and Lars Bohinen, from English clubs but they all seem to slot neatly into place when regroup for World Cup action.

omania and Bulgaria have some talented strikers, but can be pect in defence.

omanian striker Florin Raducioiu has been signed by Europe's strongest club, AC Milan, while Gheorghe Hagi is the field mastermind who also has played in Spain and Italy.

risto Stoichkov is one of Barcelona's standout strikers and ns up for Bulgaria with Emil Kostadinov, whose two goals his country into the finals and eliminated France.

ussia also has talented players and will prove difficult to t. But a lack of resources back home will mean the team may among the worst prepared.

y contrast, Sweden will be one of the best organised teams in United States. It also has players capable of reaching the second round but will do well to get any further.

elgium is seeded because it has a good recent World Cup

record but looks an unlikely finalist. While many of its players are experienced, critics say they are too old.

Spain has flair but lacks consistency and Ireland's team is creaking along with several players in their 30s.

Greece has made it for the first time and is unlikely to make an impact, while the Swiss are surprise qualifiers for the first time since 1966 under the guidance of Roy Hodgson.

For them, simply qualifying is a major achievement.

The United States has qualified automatically as host nation but is still a long way off from joining the world elite.

Of the qualifiers from the Asian group, South Korea has made it for the third time in a row while Saudi Arabia will make its debut.

Both will find it hard to progress to the second round when the tournament starts next June.

Since 1978, Argentina has won the title twice and been runner-up once.

Diego Maradona has returned to the team after a drug-related suspension and the whole team appears to be more sophisticated than the one that lost 1-0 to Germany in that dull final in 1990.

The World Cup usually brings out the best in Brazil.

Star strikers such as Romario and Bebeto should thrill the crowds in the United States. The Brazilians bring with them colorful fans who combine samba with soccer.

Brazil won the World Cup in 1958, '62 and '70, the Pele years.

Since he retired, the team has lost some of its magic and has gone through several coaching changes.

Now the Brazilians believe they have the players to recapture the title.

But will they be able to match the well-balanced, talented and experienced squad Germany's Berti Vogts will take to the United States?

Is there anyone around to outsmart Lothar Matthaus, Andreas Moller and Thomas Hassler and stop the forward runs of Christian Ziege?

GROUP FOUR

IN BRUSSELS:

Belgium and Czechoslovakia drew 0-0.

Attendance: 21,000

Belgium qualifies for World Cup finals.

IN CARDIFF:

Romania beat Wales 2-1

Scorers:

Wales - Dean Saunders (61st min)

Romania - Gheorghe Hagi (32nd), Florin Raducioiu (83rd)

Attendance: 40,000

FINAL STANDINGS

Romania	10	7	1	2	29	12	15
Belgium	10	7	1	2	16	5	15
Czechoslovakia	10	4	5	1	21	9	13
Wales	10	5	2	3	19	12	12
Cyprus	10	2	1	7	8	18	5
Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	1	38	0

Note: Czechoslovakia (RCS - Representation of Czechs and Slovaks)

Romania and Belgium qualify for World Cup finals

GROUP FIVE

IN ATHENS:

Greece beat Russia 1-0

Scorer: Nikos Mahlas (68th min)

Attendance: 55,000

FINAL STANDINGS

Greece	8	6	2	0	10	2	14
Russia	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Iceland	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Hungary	8	2	1	5	6	11	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	2	17	1

Greece and Russia qualify for the finals.

GROUP SIX

IN PARIS:

Bulgaria beat France 2-1

Scorers:

France - Eric Cantona (31st)

Bulgaria - Emil Kostadinov (36th, 90th)

Attendance: 48,000

FINAL STANDINGS

Sweden	10	6	3	1	19	8	15
Bulgaria	10	6	2	2	19	10	14
France	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Austria	10	3	2	5	15	16	8
Finland	10	2	1	7	9	18	5
Israel	10	1	3	6	10	27	5

Sweden and Bulgaria qualify for World Cup finals

THE 24 QUALIFIERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S WORLD CUP FINALS

United States (hosts)	Saudi Arabia
Germany (Cup holders)	South Korea
Mexico	Italy
Greece	Switzerland
Russia	Netherlands
Colombia	Spain
Bolivia	Ireland
Brazil	Belgium
Nigeria	Romania
Cameroon	Sweden
Morocco	Bulgaria
Norway	Argentina



Greece in action against Russia.



WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

Belgium through

— GROUP 4 —

BELGIUM 0 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0

BELGIUM, down to 10 men after 50 minutes when defender Philippe Albert was sent off, held on for a 0-0 draw in Brussels with Czechoslovakia to qualify for the World Cup finals for the fourth time in a row.

The Belgians, who only needed a draw to clinch their berth in the 1994 US finals, finished in second place in European group four behind Romania, whose 2-1 win away to Wales saw them through.

Czechoslovakia, who could only have qualified with a victory, bow out of football. From now on their players will line up for the Czech Republic or Slovakia.

Albert was sent off after his second bookable offence in the 50th



minute.

The Belgians were on their heels in the second half as Czechoslovakia, losing World Cup finalists in 1934 and 1962, continually raided the penalty area with quick combinations.

But reserve goalkeeper Filip De Wilde, playing for injured 1990 World Cup veteran Michel Preud'homme, kept a tight lid on his goal.

De Wilde superbly stopped a well placed free kick by Peter Dubovsky following Albert's red card and kept his team alive in the 60th minute when he

pushed out a curling Jan Suchoparek shot from outside the box.

Belgium finished its qualifying campaign without conceding a goal at home.

The first half was a scrappy affair in which the Belgians only once threatened Czechoslovak goalkeeper Peter Kouba.

Belgian coach Paul Van Himst injected more fire into his side when he brought on winger Dany Boffin as substitute for striker Luis Oliveira shortly after Albert's dismissal.

Boffin repeatedly ventured deep into the Czechoslovak half.

He came close in the 62nd minute but Kouba was well-placed to snuff out the danger.

"I'm so happy," Van Himst said after the final whistle as fireworks exploded above the stadium and the crowd

chanted "USA, USA".

"When Albert was excluded, my world fell apart. I thought, now we're finished," Van Himst said.

"In the first half we had some good moments but they were quicker on the ball."

Belgium: Filip De Wilde; Dirk Medved, Philippe Albert, Michel De Wolf, Rudy Smidts; Lorenzo Staelens, Franky Van der Elst, Enzo Scifo, Bruno Versavel; Luis Oliveira (Dany Boffin 52nd minute), Luc Nilis (Alex Czerniatyni 80th).

Czechoslovakia: Petr Kouba; Ivan Hasek, Miroslav Kadlec, Jiri Novotny, Jan Suchoparek (Jaroslav Timko 82nd); Peter Dubovsky, Lubomir Moravcik, Vaclav Nemecek, Pavel Hapal (Radoslav Ratal 74th); Pavel Kuka, Tomas Skuhravy.



Belgium grab a USA place.

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Fluent Romanians

— GROUP 4 —

WALES 1
ROMANIA 2

ROMANIA qualified for next year's World Cup finals — and stunned 40,000 Welsh fans into



silence when it downed Wales 2-1 in its final European Group Four qualifier.

Wales, bidding to reach the finals for the first time since its only appearance in 1958, would have qualified if it had won as a result of the 0-0 draw between Belgium and Czechoslovakia in the other Group Four match in Brussels.

But goals from Gheorghe Hagi after 32 minutes and Florin Raducioiu seven minutes from time ended Wales' dreams and ensured Romania goes to the United States with Belgium, which won the group.

Dean Saunders scored for Wales after 61 minutes — but the match turned two minutes later when Paul Bodin lashed a penalty against the bar.

A goal then would have put Wales 2-1 ahead but Romania weathered that storm and came back to win.

The result was the latest in a long history of near-misses for Wales which has now narrowly missed out on four World Cup finals and two European championships in the past 15 years.

The National Stadium in Cardiff was a cauldron of excitement and



Dean Saunders: member of Wales' of losing side.

emotion by kick-off time with thunderclashes and fireworks providing a dramatic backdrop to Wales' biggest match for years.

And although Wales started brightly, its hopes crashed after 32 minutes when Hagi, who plays for Brescia in Italy, picked the ball up on the right side of midfield, cut inside and fired in a low shot from 25 metres.

Neville Southall, usually one of Wales' most reliable and best players, appeared to have the ball covered, but, on his 71st appearance for his country, somehow allowed it to squeeze under him and into the back of the net.

The stadium fell silent as Hagi and his yellow-shirted team mates celebrated wildly.

Southall sat in despair in his goalmouth.

Romania had also begun confidently by stroking the ball around and in the first minute Ilie Dumitescu drifted inside to blaze a shot over the bar.

But in the fourth minute Wales got the



crowd, already at fever-pitch, into an even higher state of excitement as it almost took the lead.

David Phillips crossed from the right and Ian Rush glided a header just over the bar.

The Romanians started the second half as they finished the first — stroking the ball around with a fluency that left Wales often trailing in their wake.

But Wales sprang to life — and the drama went up yet another notch — as it equalised after 61 minutes.

Ryan Giggs free kick was nodded on by Eric Young and then Gary Speed and Saunders appeared at the far post to jab home from point blank range for his third goal in his last six internationals.

A minute later, Speed was pulled back by Dan Petrescu, as he raced into the box and Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger gave the penalty.

But Bodin drilled his kick against the bar.

With Wales pressing forward for the winner, Romania broke and scored.

Raducioiu, who plays for AC Milan, jinked round a tackle and shot low past Southall as the Wales goalkeeper came out.

It was his ninth goal of the qualifying competition — and the one that secured Romania a place in the finals for the sixth time in its history.

WALES: Neville Southall, David Phillips, Paul Bodin (Malcolm Allen 71st), Andy Melville, Eric Young, Kit Symonds (Jeremy Goss 53rd), Barry Horne, Dean Saunders, Ian Rush, Gary Speed, Ryan Giggs
ROMANIA: Florin Prunea, Dan Petrescu, Daniel Prodan, Miodrag Belodedici, Ioan Lupescu, Gheorghe Popescu, Tibor Selymes (Dorinel Munteanu 74th), Ioan Sabau, Florin Raducioiu, Gheorghe Hagi, Ilie Dumitescu (George Mihili 89th).

Bergkamp brace lifts Netherlands

— GROUP 2 —

POLAND 1
HOLLAND 3

The Netherlands, inspired by two goals



from Dennis Bergkamp, beat Poland 3-1 in Poznan to clinch a place in next year's World Cup finals.

Bergkamp rifled home a volley in the 10th minute and slid the ball into the net from close range in the 56th minute.

Ronald de Boer sealed victory in the 88th minute.

Marek Lesniak scored Poland's only goal in the 12th minute.



The victory assured the Dutch of second place in qualifying Group Two behind Norway, and ahead of England, who beat San Marino 7-1.



Dennis Bergkamp: his two goals sent Holland on their way to the USA.

HIERRO THE HERO

— GROUP 3 —

SPAIN 1 DENMARK 0

Spain, down to 10 men after 10 minutes when goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta was sent off, beat European champion Denmark 1-0 in Seville to

USA94



ensure its qualification for the World Cup finals.

Midfielder Fernando Hierro scored the vital goal in the 63rd minute with a

towering header from a corner by Juan Goikoetxea which ultimately killed Denmark's hopes of qualifying from European Group Three. The game was tense and frenetic throughout, with neither side creating more than a handful of clearcut chances. The Spaniards overcame the shock of losing Zubizarreta, when he felled Barcelona clubmate Michael Laudrup just outside the area after gifting him the ball, to dominate midfield in the second half and snatch the goal which booked their passage to the United States next year.



Emilio Butragueno of Spain.

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FALCONS DELIGHT FANS



John Markovski: set up the first goal for Canosa.

BY GREG BLAKE

MORWELL broke its home goal drought in style on Saturday night with a slashing 2-0 win over labouring Melbourne BUSC in front of a delighted Latrobe Valley crowd.

It took defenders Claudio Canosa and Shaun Parton to break a scoreless half time deadlock, but the reality was that Morwell might have scored a bag full on the night.

Denied by the woodwork twice and by BUSC goalkeeper Jim Kourtis on several occasions, the Falcons were still rewarded for an enterprising displays.

The match opener came three minutes after half time, livewire Sonny Sevin's corner headed on by John Markovski to set up Canosa with a free header far post.

The sealer came five minutes from full time with a similar set-up,

MORWELL FALCONS 2 MELBOURNE BUSC 0



Sevin's corner headed goalbound by Markovski, Steve Marley clearing off his own line to let Parton in for a blast into the roof of the net.

BUSC looked disjointed throughout and was let off the hook several times.

Kourtis was inspirational, stopping Brian Bothwell (twice), Sevin and Markovski all before half time.

Kourtis produced more acrobatics after the break to deny Markovski and Lachlan Armstrong, the former Dundee youngster

looking impressive in his first league match after missing six weeks with injury.

Morwell's second half onslaught deserved better reward, with Markovski and Sevin also denied goals by the width of the crossbar.

BUSC can only hope for the rushed inclusion of Ransford Banini for next week's clash with Parramatta after yet another insipid performance.

Both sides suffered key injuries in the opening 25 minutes of Saturday's game, BUSC's Andrew Zinni and Morwell's George Hannah limping from play.

Morwell coach Bobby McLachlan couldn't hide his delight at his side's effort.

"It was our best win of the season," he said.

MORWELL: Mautone,



Hannah (Armstrong 24), Canosa, Douglas, Parton, Sevin, Gagetti, Bothwell, Markovski, Upton, Cassar.

MELB BUSC: Kourtis, Morley, Ferla, Lane, Pillemer, Becvinovski, Zinni (Smith 16), Emmanuele, Karkalersis, Tombolato, Minichiello.

GOALS: Canosa 48m and Parton 85m for Morwell.

YELLOW CARDS: Canosa 4m, Parton 32m and Bothwell 70m, Ferla 78m for BUSC.

RED CARDS: Nil.

REFEREE: J. Fraser.

CROWD: 2,500.

POY POINTS: 3 — Canosa (MF), 2 — Sevin (MF), 1 — Kourtis (BUSC).

Breakers come of age

BY RICHARD FRENCH

Newcastle Breakers coach Jim Foley was making no apologies for his team's entertaining but risky style of play after it went top of the table with a 3-1 win over Sydney United at Mitre 10 Stadium in Newcastle last Friday night.

Despite a number of heartstopping moments at the back, the Breakers' win at all costs attitude is still taking the league by surprise as their opponents try to work out how a homegrown bunch of supposed has-beens is making a mockery of the form guide.

The cash-strapped Breakers, rebuilt over the off-season with mostly local but highly seasoned players snubbed by the big-spending former management, stunned Manfred Schaefer's young guns on Friday night.

Newcastle, ignoring a 20-minute delayed kickoff, caused by a fierce storm which temporarily put out the lights, and United's talented frontline, pushed forward to create their own luck.

The Breakers caught lanky young keeper Zeljko Kalac napping in the sixth minute.

Striker Warren Spink lobbed a ball forward for Rod Brown who took full advantage of a woeful miskick by Kalac outside his area.

Although it took the Breakers until the 43rd minute to seemingly end United's chances when Spink stuck away his fifth goal of the season after a crisp one-two into the box with Brown, the home side almost

NEWCASTLE 3 SYDNEY UNITED 1



suffered a severe blow in the 28th minute because of a terrible decision by referee Gordon Dunster.

Dunster, who ruined much of the match for both teams with his constant whistling and inconsistent bookings which threatened to create several nasty blow-ups, awarded United a penalty which even its coach Manfred Schaefer conceded was unwarranted.

Former Young Socceroo Ante Milicic had drifted into the box but, as a television replay clearly confirmed, was clearly dispossessed by Neil Owens right under Dunster's eyes before taking a swan dive.

But justice was done when Kiwi custodian Clint Gosling made a fine save to his left off the penalty kick by Tony Krslovic.

After Kalac had redeemed his earlier mistake by tipping a John McQuarrie header over the bar in the 19th minute and catching a seemingly unstoppable lob by Brown in the 32nd, it appeared the Breakers had let United off the hook when they conceded a soft goal from the kick-off after Spink's strike.

Just on the stroke of half-time a cracking 20-metre left footer from Manis Lamond

seemed to be well within Gosling's grasp but the keeper made a once in a lifetime error when he let it slip through and over him instead of parrying it to the ground.

But Gosling, too, made amends for his mistake by spreading himself to block a Krslovic drive in the 70th minute which could have turned the match.

A minute later Kalac stood stock still as a Nick Meredith rocket thumped into his left post.

The Breakers, who had been fading in earlier games because of lack of matches, came back strongly in the final stages and after a sustained period of pressure put the final nail in United's coffin in the 80th minute.

David Lowe, seemingly having a quiet game, completely lost his marker on the left before squaring the ball back to Spink who showed he can provide, not just score, goals when he teed the ball up 20-metre out for Brown to smash past Kalac who again was inexplicably stranded in no-man's land.

Brown almost brought up what would have been a richly deserved hat-trick when he fired a bouncing ball to Kalac's right in the 83rd minute, but this time the 'keeper was awake enough to parry and hold the shot.

"We're trying to play an open and entertaining game and if you score three goals and win what else can you do," Foley said.

"Let's be honest here, to do anything else, to try to



just hold on and maybe score one goal, like so many teams do, is killing the game.

"But we're not getting carried away with being top of the table tonight.

"We still have a lot to learn as a team.

"We have put ourselves in a position to have a good season but I believe that where you are at the end is more important than where we are now."

Foley, whose side was given a number of scares by United's quick and skilful attack, conceded that his defence needed finetuning.

"But we haven't even played a dozen games together as a unit, and there's no shortcuts to time together.

"We're still a bit green as a unit, but it's also a risk playing with our attitude that if you score more goals than the other team it doesn't matter how many they get.

"Brown and Spink are becoming a great combination and don't forget how much better they'll be when the guys behind them, like David Lowe and John McQuarrie, really develop an understanding."

Understanding appears to be what United lacked and



Rod Brown: scored twice for the Breakers.

Schaefer admitted a "long, hard look" at his defence was needed.

"At 2-1 and 20 minutes into the second half I thought we had them on the rack," Schaefer said.

"But we have conceded six goals in the past two games and I will have to look at that closely.

"We also could be finishing our chances better, like Rod Brown did tonight."

Schaefer said that with keeper Tony Franken waiting in the wings, he would obviously need to think seriously about Kalac's position.

NEWCASTLE: Gosling, Maier, Jones, Jennings, McQuarrie (Naumov 80), Brown, Spink, Lowe, Owens, Tredinnick, Meredith.

SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Stanton, Kupresak, Popovic,

Krslovic, Hristodoulou, Gibson (Petkovic 58), Zdrilic, Moric, Milicic, Lamond.

SCORERS: Brown (6 and 80), Spink 43, Lamond 44.

YELLOW CARDS: Krslovic 1, Owens 48, McQuarrie 59, Zdrilic 63.

REFEREE: Gordon Dunster.

CROWD: 2338.

POINTS: Brown 3, McQuarrie 2, Meredith 1.



THE GOOD OIL... THE GOOD OIL...

WITH
JOHN
ECONOMOS

LEGS

ZORAN MATIC, Adelaide City's master-coach, like all Australians, was very disappointed that the Socceroos lost to Argentina.

Matic, like many people, wants to know why we elected to play the first leg in Sydney and not over there.

"Surely it would have been to Australia's great advantage to have played the second leg in Sydney and not Buenos Aires," Matic said.

"From what I understand, it was Australia that asked for the first leg to be played here. Why?"

Matic also suggested that Australia didn't lose the match in Argentina. It was lost in Sydney when we should have won.

He added: "All internationally successful teams must win at home."

"We had so many chances in Sydney but we just failed to capitalise on them. Then we travel over there and hope to pull off a miracle. It was never on."

FOSTER

CRAIG FOSTER, who trialled with Adelaide City during the off-season, has suffered a fracture to his foot.

His foot now out of plaster, Foster could be soon going back for further trials with the South Australian club.

IRIARTE

JOSE IRIARTE, West Adelaide's lithe striker, has

**ERMANNO PELUCCHI**

just had an operation to his groin following his recent return from playing in Malaysia.

Iriarte will not be back in action for coach, Raul Blanco for another four or five weeks.

SPONSORS

Sponsorships in Australian soccer these days are getting harder to snare.

However, one CCSL club has almost certainly lost a lucrative sponsorship because of egoes.

Apparently a particular egotistical club official (and we do have many to say the least), was involved in a personality clash with a sponsor last week.

The sponsor this week simply hit back crisply by cancelling the pending sponsorship deal, understood to be valued at

a massive \$250,000.

WADEY

AUSTRALIAN World Cup skipper Paul Wade won the hearts of every Australian last Thursday following our second leg loss to Argentina at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires.

In the after-match interview with SBS-TV's presenter, Les Murray, Wadey made an emotional speech on the "Green and Gold" and strongly expressed the Socceroo squad's great love and pride for their country.

Most major radio stations in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth were so moved by Wade's speech that they replayed the SBS audio-track on their news service all day long.

BUSY

ADELAIDE CITY's Socceroo squad members are in for a very busy time after their arrival back in Australia yesterday (Sunday) morning.

The "Elite Five", (Robbie Zabica, Tony Vidmar, Alex Tobin, Milan Ivanovic and Carl Veart) now have to concentrate their energies back to club football business.

Because of their involvement with national team duties over the past six weeks, Adelaide City have been left stranded at the base of the League

**JOSE IRIARTE**

ladder with zero points plus a backlog of no less than five matches.

This means over the coming few weeks, Adelaide City will have to play at least two games per week, (starting with this Wednesday night against West Adelaide) to clear the backlog.

There is no rest for the wicked.

CLUBS

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION next February, at its Annual General Meeting, will be taking the serious step of amending the national constitution to allow the national body to legally reduce the minimum

number of member clubs in the League, down from the current 14.

This is seen as a vital first step to reducing next season's League to 12 or 10 or whatever transpires.

The ASF's Chief Executive Officer, Ian Holmes remains tight lipped on the situation other than statements he has made to us in past editions.

But a leading CCSL coach, who at this stage wishes to remain unknown, stated to us last night: "We have been losing too many of our top talent to overseas clubs."

"Obviously, the only manner to retain our cream of talent here, is to offer them the chance to earn far

better money by going fully professional.

"That means fulltime for fulltime earnings."

"And to do this, I suggest the League be trimmed down to eight Australian clubs, bring in two new Clubs from New Zealand, plus invite another two new clubs from either Japan or Malaysia or Singapore to make up a total of 12 fully professional sides."

"By taking this route, the quality of our domestic League football must rise rapidly. That's benefit One."

"Benefit Two would be the greater attraction and willingness of large Corporations such as Sony, Sharpe, BHP, ICI, Phillips, Pepsi Cola,

**Zoran Matic**

major breweries etc to come into soccer and pump in large cash underwritings for the economic viability of this new League.

"But most of all, benefit Three would be that Australia would be in a much stronger position to then be able to hang on to the Arnolds, Aurelio Vidmars, Zelics and Slaters, and keep them employed here fulltime in soccer."

"The ultimate benefit, of course, would be reflected in the quality of our Socceroo squad."

"Australia would then not be in a position where we have to constantly go cap-in-hand to European clubs, begging them to release our players for national training camps and international matches."

IMPORTS

Marconi's **ERMANNO PELUCCHI** returned from Italy four weeks ago with not ONE, but TWO Italian imports.

The first, a 29-year-old, Andrea Icardi, has already slotted into Marconi's first team as a playmaker and more recently as a left defender.

But the second is still relatively unknown.

He is 26-year-old attacking midfielder, Luka Cassol, from an Italian Second Division club who is looking for a career in the NSL.

Marconi cannot accommodate Cassol because their visa limit has been exhausted.

It is believed that League Cup winners Parramatta Eagles' coach Rale Rasic has already expressed an interest in the new player.

**PAUL WADE****ROBBIE ZABICA****RALE RASIC**



BY GREG BLAKE

It took over two years and exactly 20 air trips away for Heidelberg United to break its abysmal winless streak in interstate league matches.

And even then the Bergers nearly threw away a two-goal lead in Queensland against the Strikers before sweating to get over the wire 2-1 on November 15.

The last time Heidelberg had notched up a win over the border was at Sydney United on October 7, 1991.

But despite the drought being broken, Olympic Village boss Drago Sekularac didn't stress the point to his players.

Instead he pointed to the fact that his boys had nearly tossed the game away by going defensive.

"We played well in the first half but maybe at 2-0 up we became a bit too cautious," 'Seki' said.

"The players started going defensive and there seemed to be a lot of panic.

"There were mistakes made but it was good to get the win.

"But Brisbane was very unlucky not to win the game."

For the players themselves the interstate win was probably a weight from their collective shoulders as what was becoming a huge psychological hurdle was finally cleared.

It didn't stop the complaints

ON THE ROAD

with
Heidelberg United



about the Queensland refereeing, however.

According to Heidelberg officials in excess of five minutes of (unjustified) second half injury time was played by referee Peter Hulme.

With the Bergers down to 10 men, following the dismissal of Mike Michalakopoulos, and sweating on a rare away win,

every added second might have been crucial.

The Bergers reckon they got the same (raw) deal up north last season.



Heidelberg's Phil Stubbins



ON THE ROAD

with
South Melbourne

South Melbourne's former Soccerroo midfield maestro, Mike Petersen, is still on the very much wanted list at Middle Park despite speculation to the contrary.

The gifted Petersen recently returned from a stint in Malaysia where he was apparently in sparkling form, scoring goals and playing with typical Petersen panache.

Blues coach Jim Pyrgolios is determined that 'Mickey P' remain in his plans for the current season, with Petersen meeting with South Melbourne officials last week to sort out contract arrangements.

Petersen's non-appearance at training at Middle Park fuelled speculation that his career with the Blues might be over.

"I've talked to him twice (since his return) and I have made it known that he is a very important player to me," says Pyrgolios.

"I'm counting on him for this season, especially since I've heard very good reports about his form in Malaysia.

"I definitely want him back in the team."

That team, with or without Petersen, faces a testing run in the next couple of weeks as it plays catch-up games after Soccerroo commitments caused the Blues to have four games re-scheduled.

The run starts this Wednesday as South Melbourne goes in at

home against the Sharks before facing Adelaide City, BUSC and Marconi in the space of 10 days.

"The break has been very bad for us and I'm really worried that we are starting back too far behind (the rest of the league)," said Pyrgolios.

"It will take the national team

players another two weeks to settle back in and this break might affect the future of our whole season.

"We've even struggled to get good standard friendly games and most of our matches have been training games against the youth team."



South Melbourne striker Paul Trimboli.



ON THE ROAD

with
Melbourne Brunswick

A none-too-convincing start to its return CCSL season has prompted the call for reinforcements ASAP at Melbourne Brunswick.

Ghanian youth international Ransford Banini was set for his debut run for the club at the weekend, league paperwork pending, according to the club.

And midfielder Alexander Kumanovic is set to fly on for his debut this week, providing immigration officials in Belgrade finally rubber stamp his departure.

The club has denied that the will-he or won't-he Banini saga has dragged on due to a lack of the folding green stuff, the World Cup youth star reportedly having cost BUSC an Australian transfer record \$50,000.

"What rubbish," exclaimed president Maria Carmignani when asked if the club was struggling to meet the transfer fee.

"I really don't know who puts these rumours around.

"It's a problem with the paperwork and the ASF will be faxed a contract this week," she said on the eve of Saturday's clash at Morwell.

One positive at the Western Oval is the form of (previously) unknown goalkeeper Jim Kourtis.

The kid was plucked from lower-league Bentleigh Greens as

cover for Robbie Brian but has scored a senior chance following Brian's training injury in a mishap with Sash Becvinovski.

With Brian still sidelined for another four or five weeks Kourtis

has every chance to show his talent, and that is considerable on the basis of his early season efforts.

Kourtis is still raw but certainly a name to watch.



Paul Della Rocca of Brunswick.



ON THE ROAD

with
Morwell Falcons

The newly renamed Morwell Falcons Park will still prove an unhappy hunting ground for visiting sides this season, according to new signing George Hannah.

The former Melbourne Knights veteran doesn't believe the trip to the Latrobe Valley is getting any easier for visiting clubs, despite Morwell's 1-1-1 start at home this campaign.

"I know with the Melbourne players that we always thought it was a bit of an ordeal going down there (to Morwell)," Hannah explained of the two-hour bus trip from Melbourne.

"I don't think that has changed."

Morwell dropped only four games at home in the club's debut CCSL season but before last weekend it was lucky not to go down in a scoreless draw against Brisbane (Hannah's Falcon debut) and then followed up with a loss to the Sharks in the second home game of the season.

"I can't remember much about the Brisbane game to tell the truth," says Hannah.

"I didn't even expect to play.

"I was signed on the Friday and thought I might be on the bench and got a bit of a shock when Bobby (coach McLachlan) read out the team for the game the next night.

"But we threw the West Adelaide game away after dominating the game (the Sharks won thanks to a 30-metre scorcher from Robbie Hooker)."

As for his change of colours after playing with the Knights since their debut CCSL season in 1984, Hannah says it was his own choice.

"It's a bit strange after eleven

years with one club, but I thought the writing was on the wall at Melbourne," he explained.

"They (the Knights) were terrific about it and I'm very grateful to them."

Hannah, who says he's still got to run into form, has put in a couple of pearlers for the Falcons to date, including a best on ground in the win at Wollongong.



Mark Costabile of Morwell.



BY ALFRED HIATT

Paul Foster, the Parramatta Eagles utility who suffered a serious knee injury at the end of last season, will return to football in two months.

Foster tore a cruciate ligament and damaged the cartilage in his left knee in a training injury three days before last season's Cup final against Heidelberg.

That meant reconstruction and an enforced six-month holiday, during which he has often resorted to desperate measures in a bid to recover full movement in his leg.

"I have been doing gym work every day, running, using a mini-trampoline, anything I can think of", says Foster. "I have even been watching television with a 30 kilogram weight on my knee in an attempt to flatten it out."

"The problem at the moment is that there is scar tissue in the knee which is preventing full movement."

"I can now shoot and turn on the leg, but it will be two months before I'll be ready to play National League. After that it will take two weeks before I get back to top form."

Foster admits it has been difficult watching Parramatta from the sidelines.

"I saw the game against

ON THE ROAD

with Parramatta Eagles



Olympic at Leichhardt Oval and found it incredibly frustrating. All I wanted to do was to pull on the boots and get out there.

"But Rale Rasic knows and I know that I'm not ready yet."

Foster, who owns his own contract, will wait until he is fully fit to decide whether to return to the Eagles.

That decision will depend on what terms Parramatta offers him, and whether a move overseas looks on the cards.



Joe Spiteri: nicknamed "Spitfire", he's set for a fine debut season.



BY GREG BLAKE

It has been mixed fortunes recently for two of the remaining survivors of the mighty Melbourne Knights back-to-back grand final teams of the early 1990's.

Veteran skipper Jo Biskic, at one stage pre-season touted as not being in the plans of new coach Mirko Bazic, has been firing up like a young colt as the top-scoring Knights have made a bold bid for league leadership.

But, for goalkeeper David Miller the season has amounted to little more than a crook finger, a couple of dodgy goals conceded and the final indignity of losing his senior place to youngster Frank Juric.

Swollen finger and all Miller has taken the blow in his stride.

"What can I do?", he mused.

"I'm disappointed, of course."

"But that just means I'll have to earn my place back."

"Like me or don't like me, I'll be around a long time and they won't get rid of me that easily", says the former South Australian.

Miller, in goal for two heartbreaking penalty defeats in successive grand finals for the club, is not prepared to give up the chance to be a part of the possible success of the new wave of barnstorming young Knights.

"I know as well as anyone that

ON THE ROAD

with Melbourne Knights



you're only as good as your last game," he explained.

Miller was dropped after the club's record-equalling 4-0 fourth round win at Heidelberg, coach Bazic having pointed out a couple of non-fatal spills by the keeper in that game.

As for former ABSW Player of the Year Biskic, Miller is in awe of the 34 year-old longest serving Knight.

"He's super fit for his age and he's just a terrific player in form,"



Mark Sillic: one of the Knights' young lions.

ON THE ROAD

with Newcastle Breakers



BY RICHARD FRENCH

Lightning does strike twice, for some. The only player at Mitre 10 Stadium in Newcastle last Friday night with the experience to deal with a 20-minute delay in the kickoff of the Newcastle Breakers' match against Sydney United, caused by a fierce electrical storm which put out the lights, was striker Warren Spink.

Spink was in the Socceroo team forced to leave the field during Australia's game against the United States in Orlando because of a similar problem last year.

"Everyone thought the Yanks were joking," Spink said. "Until they told us about 60 people were killed by lightning every year on golf courses in Florida!"

Speaking of Spink and striking, can anyone think of a better attacking combination in the National League at the moment than the former Preston star and his partner in crime, Rod Brown?

Spink scored his fifth goal in five league games this season in the Breakers' 3-1 win over Sydney United and Brown chimed in with a double to take his tally to three. Spink was only beaten in the goal scoring stakes last season by a Francis Awaritefe hat-trick in the last round.

And Brown, also a "former"

Socceroo, has returned to top form after one and a half seasons with the Breakers following a knee reconstruction. So Mr Thomson, when are the Socceroos supposed to be playing that international tournament in Australia?

HIGH STAKES

The Breakers are without a general manager following a parting of the ways between the club and stopgap boss Neil Fletcher. The former coal industry manager helped the Breakers through their darkest hour as they battled a crippling debt but his quiet achievements were apparently not enough for the club. A spokesman for the club said it expected to appoint a high-profile figure from a short-list of two locals and three outsiders within a few days. The successful candidate will have the unenviable task of running both the cash-strapped licensed club and a football operation which is relying on coach Jim Foley's boys to sustain their fine start to the season.

DESPERATE

Big-hearted Breakers captain and defender Darren Stewart is back in town and hoping to force his way back into the National League. But unfortunately he suffered a torn medial ligament in his right knee in his second-last

game for Malaysian club Johore. Stewart expects to make a decision about his immediate future in the next few days.

But in the meantime he enjoyed watching his team-mates go top of the table with the win over Sydney United, ironically coached by his former boss and great friend at Apia Leichhardt, Manfred Schaefer.

COMEBACK

While the Breakers can do little better than having vastly experienced Kiwi custodian Clint Gosling between the sticks, the club's lack of a back-up goalkeeper must be a worry. But the word is that the club's former keeper when it played as Newcastle Austral in the NSW State League, Craig Carter, is training with the club. Although he hasn't signed, the talented young gloveman would be a welcome addition to Foley's squad. Carter, who made his Northern First Division debut at 14 and has since gone onto great success with several State League clubs in Sydney, could not come to terms with former Breakers boss Bruce Stowell when the club joined the National League in 1991.

TOUGH NUT

Former Newcastle Rosebud and Adamstown Rosebud defender Neil Owens epitomises the spirit of the



Graham Jennings of Newcastle

Newcastle Breakers now almost totally homegrown side. Owens, finally picked up by Stowell last season but on the bench when he wasn't struggling with a back injury, wasn't about to let a little thing like stitches in his head keep him off the park. Owens, who bled heavily from a cut he suffered during the Breakers' 2-0 win over Melbourne BUSC in the last round, not only finished that match but played against Sydney United despite still bearing the scars.

DINOSAURS

The Breakers are happy to be known as the "Dinosaurs" of the league if that means other teams take them less than seriously. Tagged "too old and too slow" by

some sections of the southern media, the Breakers were all smiles after going top of the table, at least temporarily, after downing Sydney United. One can only wonder that the Breakers might have been by now if the club's former management had not ignored for two years the local talent which had been used by so many Sydney teams during the city's time in the wilderness since KB United folded and the Breakers entered the league.

STRENGTH

After beating Melbourne BUSC 2-0, the Breakers, who boast arguably the best soccer surface in Australia, had a chuckle at the 7 out of 10 rating given recently to

BUSC's home ground of Western Oval, which is used by four codes, including cricket during the National Soccer League season. One Breaker reckoned that the soccer pitch, squeezed to one side of the cricket pitch, was so narrow that one of his team-mates tried throughout the game to knock BUSC's keeper into the back of the net with throw-ins. Another Breakers, well used to primitive accommodation at local Northern First Division grounds, said that player facilities at Western Oval were "like something out of the 1950s". Hope BUSC's players don't get lost on the wide expanses of Mitre 10 Stadium or mistake Newcastle's grandstand for the Taj Mahal.

**BY SARAH CLARRY**

ADELAIDE City must now begin the task of catching up the matches the club has had postponed while its five Australian representatives were away.

Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Robert Zabica, Tony Vidmar and Carl Veart have now come home from their national team duties and barring injuries, will line up for City's midweek game against Sydney Olympic.

Coach Zoran Matic is expecting his players to put the frantic activity of the past few weeks behind them, and concentrate on the job at hand for the club. "I expect them to bring their minds and bodies back from Argentina, not just their bodies," he said.

The players are certainly returning to a novel reception.

As the game will be the first home match of the CCSL season for City, the club has organised a launch at the Adelaide Zoo.

The Adelaide City Supporters' Club sponsor a zebra called "Hatari" there, an animal which the Supporters' Club claims is as untameable and unpredictable as the Adelaide City performances on the park!

All the Soccerroos will be present at the launch, as well as Matic and players Steve Maxwell

ON THE ROAD

with
Adelaide City



and Damien Mori, which will be a fun diversion before the serious business of the Olympic match the following day.

While not playing to their best, Olympic have been getting results and it will be a tough game for City after their three-match layoff.

Matic concedes he hasn't had a chance to see his team in action, so he isn't willing to predict a result, but is wary of Olympic.

While there are no serious

injury concerns within the club at the moment, Matic is concerned about the effect the catch-up matches will have on his players.

"I think it's stupid," he said. "These decisions are always made by people who don't have to play the game."



Adelaide City's Soccerroo midfielder Damien Mori. PHOTO: JRP



ON THE ROAD

with
Sydney Olympic

Olympic fans will be delighted that the charismatic Andrew Bernal is now fully recovered from a knee injury that put him out of the game for 10 months.

Bernal required an operation to repair the surface of two bones in his knee, an injury resulting from previous cartilage damage he sustained.

Bernal has played several games in the youth side, and says he is getting back to full fitness.

"I was surprised to get through the 90 minutes," he said in reference to his recent games.

"I was gasping for breath a bit in the last 10 to 15 minutes."

However, Bernal says the knee itself is feeling fine. "I hope to be back in the side regularly during the next few weeks."

The team is in the midst of a hectic time, and coach Berti Mariani should be pleased to have an extra player to call upon in the coming weeks in light of the intensive period of competition.

Mariani said he is satisfied with the team's results to date, but that there is still a long way to go.

"I'm happy with the team's progression," he said, "but there's room for plenty of improvements — to eliminate mistakes week in week out."

After Heidelberg in Melbourne in the last round, they must now travel to Adelaide midweek to play Adelaide City in one of the

home team's postponed matches.

They then face the in-form Melbourne Knights this weekend.

The good news is that the concerns around Joe Caleta,

Branko Milosevic and Tony Spyridakos, who all suffered knocks in Olympic's match against Marconi have been alleviated, and the three are fully recovered.



Joe Caleta: fit to play.



ON THE ROAD

with
West Adelaide

West Adelaide welcomed back coach Raul Blanco on Sunday after his absence due to Soccerroo commitments.

Assistant coach Adrian Santrac has been at the helm for the club while Blanco was away, and has guided the team to a handy season start, with only one loss in four matches.

Santrac said of his time in charge of the team: "It's been very mixed. There have been enjoyable times, and frustrating times, but overall it has been great."

The team is strengthened by return of Stan Lazaridis, who is almost certain to line up against South Melbourne on Wednesday night as he is feeling up to it.

Frank Tibaldi is still in doubt. After his head clash with Shaun Parton in the Sharks' match against Morwell, he suffered concussion, and was unable to complete a training session last week due to dizziness.

A few face at the club is George Haniotis, who recently signed. Haniotis was previously with Sydney Olympic before playing two seasons in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, reserve goalkeeper Tony Giannasca has been in the wars lately. Giannasca dislocated his shoulder in training when diving for a ball.

It isn't the first time he has done it, and if the injury recurs he

may need surgery to tighten the ligaments.

To top off a bad week, teammate Greg Brown split his lip when he fired a ball at him — again during training — which hit him in the mouth from just two metres away. He still has all his teeth, and ever philosophical, said: "I'm just glad it wasn't my nose."

One West Adelaide player not so lucky is Jose Iriarte, who will not be able to avoid surgery to repair a "sportsman's hernia", or groin muscle that has come away from the bone.

Iriarte returned from Malaysia a month ago, and it will be some time before he is fit to resume playing.



Gus Cerro: formerly with Marconi, now strutting his stuff in Adelaide.

**BY ROGER SLEEMAN**

If anyone a few months ago had suggested to ex-Rockdale and St George goalkeeper, Tony Kostadinovski, that he would be protecting the Marconi goals, he would have said they were dreaming.

The 19-year-old custodian had just completed his first full season in the Super League, and was resigned to the fact that next winter he would be appearing in Super League Division One with St George, following the announcement of their relegation from the top competition.

Last season Kostadinovski had trialled with Marconi but was unable to gain a release from his former club, Rockdale.

What Kostadinovski didn't reckon on was the speed of Frank Arok's actions. Before he knew it, the youngster had signed a one-year contract with the champions.

After Marconi's disappointing 3-1 loss to Sydney United, Frank Arok decided to give Kostadinovski his chance in the NSL in the away match against the Melbourne Knights.

"It was totally unexpected but I can only relate the great sense of happiness, elation and pure joy I experienced when Frank advised me of my selection,"

ON THE ROAD

with
Marconi Fairfield



says Kostadinovski.

"It was a dream come true to be given the chance to play in the first team."

His performance in the 3-2 victory at Somers Street was more than creditable and he was totally blameless for both goals.



Marconi's Icardi

In the 1-0 loss to Sydney Olympic, Kostadinovski made two brilliant saves.

The first came when he narrowed the angle as Joe Caleta charged into the box. Kostadinovski succeeded in forcing the Olympic striker to lose control at the vital moment.

The second came when he saved a point-blank range shot from Ivan Kelic by throwing his legs at the ball and sending it round the far post.

"This game was vital because it really boosted my confidence, and although we lost, I felt that my contribution to the team effort was important," says Kostadinovski.

With the return of Mark Schwarzer from Argentina, it would seem that Kostadinovski will return to the youth team.

"I have time on my side," he says.

"After all it's not so long ago that Schwarzer was playing second fiddle to Bob Catlin, so it's just a matter of retaining form in the youth team and my chance will come."



THE VIC VIEW

BY GREG BLAKE

I always find it curious that coaches and players generally refuse to acknowledge that they even bother to read, let alone take any notice, of what they see in the press.

Yet, should a media rep be bold enough to have the courage of his convictions and have a shot at player, coach or club, you can bet your life he will hear about it eventually.

Melbourne Brunswick coach John Margaritis (who, by the way, admitted on national television "not to expect much" from his team this year) recently credited the media with enough influence to possibly break his side's morale.

After putting in a stinker in a 2-0 home defeat against the Breakers the BUSC boss said his team's morale was still "high sky."

"The only reason it wouldn't be is because of you guys," he told the assembled media.

I presume that means we shouldn't say BUSC played like a rabble then.

Well done to the kids from South Melbourne and Heidelberg United.

Hot on the heels of the formation of South Melbourne's official 'Blue and White Army' official supporter's club comes news that the Olympic Village youngsters have followed suit.

The Heidelberg United supporters group is now officially known as 'HUSCY', or Heidelberg United Soccer Club Youth.

Both groups offer terrific benefits at reasonable joining fees to young fans of both clubs and both groups are to be commended on the initiative shown.

Contact the respective clubs for further details of how to join the official 'army' or the newly-formed 'huscies' (pronounced husky).

It's official; Melbourne Brunswick United Soccer Club will be known as the Pumas in 1993/94.

Although traditionally known as the Zebras, Adelaide City's long-time CCSL membership entitled that club to the exclusive use of that nickname.

BUSC's (yuk !) major sponsor is Puma, hence the new tag for the former Juventus.

Hopefully, Heidelberg's Round Four home loss to the Knights was not an omen.

That 4-0 win by the Knights at the Village equalled Melbourne's record win against the Bergers, scored in 1989 at the same venue with an identical scoreline.

Heidelberg was relegated at the end of the '89 season.

It's been a long time between drinks for Heidelberg United in league games on the road.

The club's win at Brisbane on November 15 was Heidelberg's first success interstate in two years, one month and eight days.

The last time the Bergers tasted success over the border was on October 7, 1991, when they won 3-1 against Sydney United on season 1991/92 opening day.

The last time Heidelberg scored a win in Brisbane was back in 1986, when the Bergers did the double away against former CCSL clubs Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City.

Congratulations to the Melbourne Knights for showing that the human face of football is still very much alive.

Not certain of a senior game this year, 11-year veteran George Hannah asked for a move and was granted his wish when he was snapped up by the Morwell Falcons.

But only on loan, mind you, as the Knights wanted Hannah to stay on the books at Somers Street for the remainder of the season.

The reason for the loan deal was that Hannah and fellow Knights champion Jo Biskic could be rewarded with a duel testimonial at the end of the season.

Well done Knights, for seeing to it that one of the club's all-time greats is rewarded for his big-hearted efforts down the years.

A couple of weeks back I spotlighted the double-quick changing of the guard at Middle Park since South Melbourne's grand final triumph in 1990/91.

But consider South's opponents that day, the now new-look Melbourne Knights.

Since that first of successive grand final losses for the Knights have a look at the calibre of players who've since moved on from Somers Street.

Alan Davidson, Francis Awaritefe, Damian Mori, Branko Milosevic, Joe Caleta, Zjelko Adzic, George Hannah, Ivan Kelic, Theo Selemidis, Paul Donnelly and Ivan Duzel have all departed in the past two years.

That player list would ensure any club a finals berth, if not a championship.

BEES CELEBRATE IN STYLE



Werribee City State League Champions 1993.

BY GREG BLAKE

Look out Premier League, here comes Werribee City.

That is the message ringing loud and clear from the outer western suburbs-based club after its finest-ever Victorian season.

After 24 years of marking time in the lower Victorian leagues Werribee recently celebrated its stunning 1993 Victorian State League First Division title win with a gala night at Werribee's Italian Social Club.

Marked as one of the most progressive clubs in the state, the Bees bounced back from a heartbreaking 1992 campaign when the seniors missed promotion by a point and a subsequent bid to fill a Premier League vacancy was pipped at the post.

And the club and its guests celebrated the grand success in style, with the presentation night coming just days after the Mayor of

Werribee acknowledged the club's achievement with a street parade.

The mayor, Victorian Soccer Federation officials and a host of VIP guests attended the big night, hosted by 3AK radio personality Sebastian Italia.

The major awards went to: Frank Petricca (Best and Fairest); Con Giatas (Best Club Man); Joe Santalucia (Encouragement Award) and Ian Calderwood (Top Scorer).

Player-coach and former South Melbourne legend Charlie Egan has promised few changes to the title winning squad for its first-ever season at Premier League level.

The 1993 squad was: Con Giatas, Ian Reid, Ralph Barba, Bill Margarelli, Robert Carraro, Frank Petricca, Ken Smart, Leno Cavarro, Robert Napoli, Milorad Gelic, Wille Raynes, Bobby Stojcevski, Joe Santalucia, Ian Calderwood, Charlie Egan, Nick Hatzilazaridis and Dino Grillo.



Werribee City players collecting their winners' medals.

REID TO FULFILL DREAM

A CHANCE meeting between former Women's Soccer Marketing Manager, Peter Wingrove, and Women's national coach, John Reid in Perth has resulted in Reid fulfilling a long time ambition.

The meeting, by accident, occurred during the Women's National Championships in September.

Peter, who was returning home to Sydney after a business trip, was talking to John and found that he had been recommended by the National Director of Coaching, Mike Wells, to attend a coaching course in Brazil but the big setback was the costs involved in getting to Brazil.

"I was explaining the details to Peter when he told me, no problem, I'll sponsor your trip for you, after all the women's team will get the benefit from such a trip," said Reid.

"I cannot thank Peter

enough as I was seriously thinking of withdrawing due to the costs, dream come true I have always admired Brazilian football and have been trying to visit for over 10 years now," Reid said.

Reid, who is the Regional Coaching Director in Rockhampton, Central Queensland, has taken holidays and been given permission to extend his leave by his coaching committee, is expecting to learn a great deal from the course, he has a reputation for developing a sound skill base for players with plenty of individual practices.

"If a player has confidence in their ability they have a greater chance of being successful, players can run and tackle all day but there is no substitute for skill.

Players nowadays have to be very fit to produce their ability continuously throughout a game," said Reid.

Wingrove, who is the General Manager for Panametrics Pty, who supply instruments involved in oil drilling, a job that has him travelling regularly around the world which is one reason why he resigned his position with women's soccer.

His trips allow him to watch football in most places he travels to and observe the current trends in the sport.

"John is a talented coach and will do a good job with the Australian women's team, he needs to travel and expand his knowledge and therefore I had no hesitation in sponsoring him for his trip, it will benefit both him and women's soccer," Peter said.

Reid is one of two Australian coaches attending the course in Brazil, he will be accompanied by Carlos Buzzetti, the South Australian Director of Coaching.

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★ Plus all the Saturday night action of all Morwell home games.

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FROM THE HIP

BY LOU GAUTIER



Graham Arnold and Robbie Slater

Some random notes on the Socceroos and their USA '94 campaign...

Realistically, the Australians could not have done better, even though they did concede a freakish own goal in the cauldron that is Buenos Aires' River Plate Stadium. Losing 2-1 on aggregate to a football giant like Argentina is confirmation that Australian soccer is no longer a door mat.

At home, we are ultra-competitive, and even on foreign soil, our players are tactically enough aware these days to make it very tough for even the best of them, but our technique is still defective.

BRAVO, ZABICA!

Bravo, Robert Zabica! His display in the second leg was as good as anything the injured Mark Bosnich would have conjured. And it is interesting to note that despite the valued, and priceless, contribution of the European-based Socceroos, many of the high points of the Australians' World Cup campaign were achieved by "local" players. Mark Schwarzer, Mehmet Durakovic, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin and Carl Veart — for his goals in the early Oceania group games — take a bow!

EXPATS

And while on the subject of our expatriates, how many will survive the next time round when Asia will be Australia's World Cup arena? Despite what you read in the post-Buenos Aires wash, we will not be seeing the likes of Frank Farina, Graham Arnold, Robbie Slater, not to mention David Mitchell, in a Socceroo shirt again, at least where World Cup qualifiers are concerned. They will all be nudging, or past, 33 years of age then.

A technically-endowed player like Diego Maradona can continue until his mid-thirties, but players who cannot make the ball do the work and have to rely on running to do the job, age quicker on the park.

Keep an eye, as I certainly will, on Steve Corica, Stan Lazaridis, Ufuk Talay and Mark Viduka. They may form the backbone of our next World Cup squad, together with Ned Zelic, Jason Polak the Vidmar brothers, Veart and any of the Bosnich/Schwarzer/Zabica (who at

33 will still be young by custodian standards) goalkeeping trio. And the beauty of it is that Talay and Viduka can also play for the 1995 Young Socceroos and 1996 Olympic team. Of course, should he change his mind, you can add Paul Okon to this list.

GOOD HUMOURED

Les Murray and John Warren, in Buenos Aires for the SBS telecast of the return leg, said the crowd at the River Plate Stadium was passionate, but good humoured and never hostile towards the Socceroos. Even when the score was still 0-0, and Argentina no certainties to qualify, the crowd did not work itself into an anti-Australian frenzy.

Like all, and I repeat all, sporting crowds in the world, the underdog factor came into play. Argentina's behaviour on and off the field in Sydney and Buenos Aires have put to rest, forever I hope, the vicious anti-Argentine views held by sections of our uninformed media.



LES MURRAY

HOME AND AWAY

Should Australia have played the second leg in Sydney or not? That remains the hotly debated question in the aftermath of Argentina's narrowest of aggregate wins. I always favoured playing at home last, but in this column I did agree with Eddie Thomson's decision to seek a home game first as I believe we would have benefitted from the pressure exerted on Argentina after losing 5-0 to Colombia. And we did.

However, as I pointed out at the time, I was dead set against Thomson wanting to play Canada also at home first, and that was vindicated when extra-time and a

penalty shoot-out was required — in the friendly confines of the Sydney Football Stadium — to knock the brave Canucks out.

BOO, BRISBANE!

Brisbane has done it again! While every Leagues club in Sydney, including the huge Panthers complex in Penrith, featured the Argentina-Australia game on giant screens, the Brisbane Broncos had a boxing match on Sky instead!

The "Far North" again demonstrated how little it cares for the world game... Well done fellas...

TV RATINGS

Melbourne, which had the lowest rating throughout Australia for the first leg of the Australia-Argentina World Cup qualifier, notched the top ratings for the return leg, peaking at 11 ratings points, the same as Adelaide.

As one rating point represents 12,500 households, and there are 2.4 viewers per household, this means that officially 330,000 viewers watched the game in the Victorian capital.

The best Sydney could achieve was 300,000 while Perth peaked at nine points.

Sydney, however, probably attracted almost twice the official Nielsen's Ratings figures, which are only based on the 400 selected viewers whose task it is to log whatever they watch on television.

These figures do not take into account the many special parties and gatherings at dozens of Sydney venues, such as clubs, etc, which were organised to watch the SBS telecast from Buenos Aires.

The first leg — in prime time, on a Sunday at 8.30pm — peaked at 27 in Sydney.

It is estimated that a global television audience of 300 million watched the November 17 game live, with some 1.2 billion catching at least a few highlights a few hours after the event on local news bulletins.

The match set a record for gate takings in Argentina and also became the most watched soccer event televised by Channel 13 in Buenos Aires, with some 22 million people watching out of a total Argentinian population of 33 million.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BY STEVE DARBY



The Australian Soccer Federation has a planned Development Program which has basic and broad aims these being:

1. To increase the participation in the game of soccer.
2. To increase the number and the quality of the beginner coach network.
3. To raise the profile of elite players and help increase attendance at Coca-Cola Soccer League and International matches.
4. To provide resources which support the development of soccer.

To achieve these aims a series of programs have been developed and they are implemented all around the country by a team of talented State Development Officers. The programs, in summary are:

- School Visits
- School Competition
- Aussie Sport Expo
- Coaching Clinics
- Shopping Centre Promotions
- Teacher in Service
- Caps Programme
- RooBall
- Club/Association Visits
- Sportsfun
- Level 0 Coaching

In case you didn't know about these programmes, here is a brief explanation. It's a good chance that your children know about them!

School Visits

ASF Players and Staff, State Development Officers and CCSL Development Officers will enter schools by invitation and conduct coaching clinics. These clinics will include a 30 minute planned sequentially developed skill based, coaching session, followed by a shorter talk/autograph session.

Each child is left with an appropriate soccer reminder eg. sticker. The school is left with soccer related material eg. posters, brochures, videos, books.

There is also an attempt to either in-service the teacher and/or encourage them to attend a level 0/1 coaching course.

It is important that the school is left with the impression that the visit is

1.educational
2.professionally organised
3.worthwhile to be repeated

School Competitions

The Australian Secondary Schools Soccer Association (ASSA) is the formal body affiliated to the Australian Soccer Federation. They conduct national competitions for individual schools and at state championship levels, leading to the Australian Schoolboys and Schoolgirls National Team. The program complements similar Australian Soccer Federation programs.

Aussie Sport Expos

Aussie Sport Expos are organised by State Government Junior Sport Development Units, and soccer is invited to attend the sessions. They are based upon the school visit format, with rotating groups of children from a wide range of schools.

Coaching Clinics

In school holiday periods, State Federations and CCSL Clubs operate holiday clinics. These clinics operate on an economic basis. Any profits being reinvested to obtain capital equipment, and pay qualified coaches.

The syllabus for the clinics is closely monitored ensuring that the coaching material is commensurate with the playing ability of the player. The ASF considers it essential that it gives "value for money" in this area and that the product is worthwhile.

Shopping Centre Promotions

Shopping centres are utilised to promote the game of soccer to the "non captured audience." Elite players from CCSL Clubs and State Federations perform and conduct skill competitions. Soccer related prizes are given away. Often these promotions have been integrated with registration days to promote participation.

Teacher in Service

Local education authorities organise in-service days and State Federations are invited to attend with a qualified instructor coach.

The teachers are left with instructional material (three relevant ASF publications). Level 0/1 coaching course are also organised by State Federations for Teachers to ensure that there is long term development of the game within the school environment.

It is a fact that over 90% of teachers in primary school will be female by the year 2000 and it is therefore essential that the game is made non threatening to these key people.

CAPS Scheme

The Challenge Achievement and Pathways in Sport (CAPS) Scheme is an Australian Sports Commission program aimed at reducing the teenage drop out rate. Soccer is an integral part of this long term program.

Soccer is initiating pilot programs to develop the concept and honorariums are being given to support Co-Ordinators RooBall.

The conception, launch and marketing of the game of RooBall is the primary drive behind participation growth.

By 1993 RooBall will be the uniform modified game played throughout Australia.

It serves two capacities. First as a vehicle for the Educational Philosophies that the ASF are attempting to promote. These being:

- equal opportunity,
- maximum participation,
- skill development
- fun

These philosophies the ASF believes, are not only beneficial to the development of the child but will encourage and promote participation.

TIME FRAME:

- 1991 Conception & Launch. (National & State)
- 1992 Education Year.
- 1993 Implementation as ASF Policy.
- 1993 Consolidation and Education Programs.

Club/Association Visits

Junior club and Association visits are conducted by CCSL Development Officers and State Development Officers on a similar basis to school visits. The emphasis on these programs is more skill based than promotional due to the playing ability of the audience.

Sportsfun

In this program State Federation Staff train Senior High School Students to act as Sportsfun Leaders.

The Leaders in turn conduct clinics for Primary School children. The Program is geared towards the less talented player. Government resource production is however excellent.

National Teams Regional Visits

This program is two fold. Firstly it will serve as a preparation for the ASF Youth teams and secondly it will act as an opportunity to extend our "Hero program" and take tangible examples of success stories to the country children and country administrators.

The objective is for a youth team (either U17 or U20) and National staff to visit every State once per year and spent nine days in a specified region in that State to:

1. Play matches against appropriate opposition
2. Train in a public arena
3. Attend coaching clinics conducted by local staff
4. Attend appropriate functions
5. Liaise with local media
6. Conduct clinics for local coaches by National Staff

This program will be prepared in consultation with the National Coaches.

'6 FROM 38 POOLS

THE
POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 435

SAT. 27TH NOVEMBER, 1993

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ARSENAL	NEWCASTLE	1
	IPSWICH	BLACKBURN	2
	LEEDS	SWINDON	3
	MAN. CITY	SHEFFIELD WED.	4
	OLDHAM	NORWICH	5
	Q.P.R.	TOTTENHAM	6
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	WIMBLEDON	EVERTON	7
	BARNLEY	BOLTON	8
	BIRMINGHAM	TRANMERE	9
	DERBY	SOUTHEND	10
	LUTON	STOKE	11
	MIDDLESBRO.	CHARLTON	12
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	MILLWALL	GRIMSBY	13
	PETERBORO	BRISTOL C.	14
	WEST BROM.	PORTSMOUTH	15
	BRISTOL R.	CAMBRIDGE U.	16
	BURNLEY	EXETER	17
	CARDIFF	BRADFORD C.	18
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	FULHAM	SWANSEA	19
	HUDDERSFIELD	BRENTFORD	20
	HULL	STOCKPORT	21
	LEYTON O.	BLACKPOOL	22
	PLYMOUTH	HARTLEPOOL	23
	PORT VALE	BRIGHTON	24
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	READING	BOURNEMOUTH	25
	WREXHAM	YORK	26
	BURY	DARLINGTON	27
	COLCHESTER	CARLISLE	28
	CREWE	CHESTER	29
	HEREFORD	DONCASTER	30
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	LINCOLN	GILLINGHAM	31
	MANSFIELD	WALSALL	32
	NORTHAMPTON	CHESTERFIELD	33
	PRESTON	WYCOMBE	34
	SCARBORO	TORQUAY	35
	SCUNTHORPE	ROCHDALE	36
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	WIGAN A.	SHREWSBURY	37
	FLEETWOOD	HORWICH	38

RESERVE MATCHES

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION	MARINE	WINSFORD	39
	MORECAMBE	BOSTON	40
	HASTINGS T.	FARNBORO	41
	ABERDEEN	HIBERNIAN	42
	CELTIC	RAITH	43
	DUNDEE	DUNDEE U.	44
SCOTTISH DIVISION 1	HEARTS	MOTHERWELL	45
	PARTICK	RANGERS	46
	S. JOHNSTONE	KILMARNOCK	47
	AIRDRIE	CLYDEBANK	48
	BRECHIN	CLYDE	49
	DUMBARTON	MORTON	50
SCOTTISH DIVISION 2	DUMFERMLINE	AYR	51
	HAMILTON	STIRLING A.	52
	ST. MIRREN	FALKIRK	53
	ALLOA	FORFAR	54
	ARBROATH	ALBION R.	55

* N.P.L. PREMIER DIVISION

† BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 434

SAT. 20TH NOVEMBER, 1993

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION	ASTON VILLA	SHEFFIELD UTD.	1	1-0
	BLACKBURN	SOUTHAMPTON	2	2-0
	CHELSEA	ARSENAL	3	0-2
	EVERTON	Q.P.R.	4	0-3
	MAN. UTD.	WIMBLEDON	5	3-1
	NORWICH	MAN. CITY	6	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 1	SHEFFIELD WED.	COVENTRY	7	0-0
	SWINDON	IPSWICH	8	2-2
	TOTTENHAM	LEEDS	9	1-1
	WEST HAM	OLDHAM	10	2-0
	BARNLEY	CRYSTAL P.	11	1-3
	BIRMINGHAM	PORTSMOUTH	12	0-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	DERBY	GRIMSBY	13	2-1
	LEICESTER	OXFORD UTD.	14	2-3
	MILLWALL	TRANMERE	15	3-1
	PETERBORO	CHARLTON	16	0-1
	SUNDERLAND	SOUTHEND	17	0-2
	WATFORD	BRISTOL C.	18	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BLACKPOOL	HUDDERSFIELD	19	2-1
	BOURNEMOUTH	HULL	20	0-2
	BRADFORD C.	PLYMOUTH	21	
	BRENTFORD	BURNLEY	22	0-0
	BRIGHTON	READING	23	0-1
	EXETER	PORT VALE	24	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	HARTLEPOOL	WREXHAM	25	1-2
	ROTHERHAM	FULHAM	26	1-2
	STOCKPORT	BRISTOL R.	27	0-2
	SWANSEA	LEYTON O.	28	1-1
	CARLISLE	PRESTON	29	0-1
	CHESTER	NORTHAMPTON	30	1-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	CHESTERFIELD	SCARBORO	31	1-0
	DARLINGTON	MANSFIELD	32	2-0
	DONCASTER	COLCHESTER	33	2-1
	GILLINGHAM	WIGAN A.	34	2-2
	ROCHDALE	BURY	35	2-1
	SHREWSBURY	SCUNTHORPE	36	0-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	TORQUAY	HEREFORD	37	1-1
	WALSALL	LINCOLN	38	5-2

* ENGLISH DIVISION THREE



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT WEEK 20/11/93 WEEK 434

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED												NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED									
46	48	65	38	48	76	59	80	63	82			21	12	2	2	7	15	2	3	4	2
81	87	77	76	82	70	82	70	71	89			11	5	11	5	11	19	14	2	10	10
72	91	88	73	72	90	77	104	88	106			20	1	10	3	1	14	3	5	3	5
83	79	84	98	98	100	86	85					0	12	2	0	5	12	5	0		

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 434 SAT NOVEMBER 20, 1993

Winning Match Numbers (In numerical order):
8, 18, 24, 28, 34, 37.
Supplementary Number 9.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE												ENGLISH DIVISION TWO											
Bristol City	2	Millwall	2	Blackburn	14	6	3	18	14	33		Blackpool	15	11	3	33	13	36					
Cheltenham	5	Notts County	1	Newcastle	14	6	4	24	15	22		Reading	16	10	4	2	38	21	34				
Colchester	2	Derby	0	Wimbledon	14	5	4	16	19	20		Burnley	16	9	1	6	29	21	28				
Southend	3	Luton	0	Tottenham	14	5	4	5	19	15		Bristol Rovers	16	8	4	4	21	16	28				
Tranmere	4	Sunderland	1	Everton	14	5	1	7	18	19		Blackpool	16	8	3	5	24	27					
Wolverhampton	1	Barnsley	1	Coventry	14	4	7	3	16	17		Hull	16	8	3	5	30	27	27				
Reading	2	Crystal Palace	1	Sheff Wed	14	4	6	3	20	18		Port Vale	15	8	3	5	28	18	27				
Forest v Peterborough, Portsmouth v Watford.		Manchester City	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	3	5	6	14	16		Plymouth	16	7	4	5	28	24	25				
Playing Sunday: Stoke v Leicester.		Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	7	5	21	24		Bradford	16	7	3	5	26	23	24				
Pools panel assessed result: Portsmouth v Watford home win.		Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Exeter	16	5	5	5	27	30	23				
FA CUP FIRST ROUND												DIVISION THREE											
Barnet	2	Carlisle	1	Blackburn	14	6	3	18	14	33		Preston	15	10	2	3	38	24	32				
Bournemouth	0	Brighton	2	Newcastle	14	6	4	24	15	22		Crewe	15	9	4	2	31	18	31				
Bradford	0	Cheltenham	0	Wimbledon	14	5	4	16	19	20		Sheff Wed	15	8	2	5	26	15	26				
Burnley	0	Derby	0	Tottenham	14	5	4	5	19	15		Cheltenham	15	7	5	3	17	12	26				
Cardiff	0	Luton	0	Everton	14	5	1	7	18	19		Walsall	15	7	5	3	25	20	25				
Carlisle	0	Sunderland	1	Coventry	14	4	7	3	16	17		Wycombe	15	6	7	2	25	20	25				
Cheltenham	0	Barnsley	1	Sheff Wed	14	4	6	3	20	18		Scunthorpe	15	6	5	4	23	12	23				
Cheltenham	0	Crystal Palace	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	3	5	6	14	16		Doncaster	15	7	2	6	17	17	23				
Cheltenham	0	Manchester City	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	7	5	21	24		Rochdale	15	6	4	5	25	15	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Shrewsbury	15	6	4	5	23	22	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Lincoln	15	6	4	5	22	24	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Marine	15	6	4	5	20	25	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Carlisle	15	6	4	5	20	25	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Blackpool	15	6	4	5	20	25	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Torquay	15	6	4	5	20	25	22				
Cheltenham	0	Sheff Wed v Watford.	1	Sheff Wed v Watford.	14	2	6	7	11	13		Gillingham	15	6	4	5	20	25	22				
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SWINDON STILL WINLESS



Chelsea captain Dennis Wise

DESPITE some instant offensive qualities from newly-acquired Keith Scott, Swindon remained the only winless team in the Premier League as it drew 2-2 at home against Ipswich last Saturday.

At the other end of the standings, Manchester United continued to roll with a 3-1 win over Wimbledon, maintaining a commanding 11-point gap over second-place Aston Villa.

Scott, purchased last week from Division

Three Wycombe for \$674,000, scored his 16th goal of the season in the first half — three more than the entire Swindon team total.

But Ipswich defender John Wark scored twice and only Paul Bodin's second-half penalty salvaged a draw for Swindon, which has lost nine and tied six on the season.

Gary Pallister, Mark Hughes and Andrei Kanchelskis scored second-half goals as United beat Wimbledon for only the second time in their last five meetings at Old Trafford.

John Fashanu scored for Wimbledon.

Villa won 1-0 over Sheffield United on a goal from Guy Whittingham. Norwich fell to third after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Manchester City, with Norwich's Ruel Fox and City's Niall Quinn scoring in a two-minute spurt in the second half.

After 15 games, Manchester United has 40 points, Villa has 29 and Norwich 27.

In other games, striker Bradley Allen scored a hat-trick to lead Queens Park Rangers to a 3-0 shutout at Everton, improving the London club to fourth place.



Alan Shearer, who spent five seasons with Southampton before moving to Blackburn last season, scored his 10th and 11th goals of the season to beat his old club 2-0.

Ian Wright's 16th goal of the season moved him within two of Newcastle's Andy Cole in the race for the scoring title. Alan Smith also scored for Arsenal in a 2-0 victory at Chelsea.

A late goal from Darren Anderton gave Tottenham a 1-1 draw against Leeds. Brian Deane had put the visitors ahead early in the second half.

Alvin Martin and Trevor Morley scored as West Ham won 2-0 at home against Oldham, and Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry played to a 0-0 draw.

In Division One, Charlton extended its lead from one point to four with a 1-0 win over Peterborough.

Tranmere remained in second despite losing 3-1 at Millwall.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester U	15	13	1	1	33	13	40
Aston Villa	15	8	5	2	18	11	29
Norwich	15	7	6	2	24	14	27
Queens Pk R	15	8	2	5	28	21	26
Leeds	15	7	5	3	25	18	26
Arsenal	15	7	5	3	15	8	26
Blackburn	15	7	5	3	20	14	26
Liverpool	14	7	2	5	22	12	23
Newcastle	14	6	4	4	24	15	22
Tottenham	15	5	5	5	20	16	20
Coventry	15	4	8	3	16	17	20
Wimbledon	15	5	5	5	17	22	20
Everton	15	6	1	8	17	21	19
West Ham	15	5	4	6	11	16	19
Ipswich	15	4	5	6	15	22	17
Manchester C	15	3	6	6	15	17	15
Sheffield Wed	15	2	8	5	21	24	14
Chelsea	15	3	4	8	11	18	13
Sheffield Utd	15	2	6	7	17	24	12
Southampton	15	3	2	10	16	26	11
Oldham	15	2	5	8	10	24	11
Swindon	15	0	6	9	13	35	6

DIVISION ONE

Charlton	18	10	5	3	24	14	35
Tranmere	18	9	4	5	28	21	31
Crystal Palace	15	9	3	3	31	17	30
Southend	17	9	3	5	31	21	30
Derby	17	9	2	6	28	27	29
Leicester	16	9	2	5	25	15	29
Portsmouth	17	7	7	3	26	23	28
Stoke	17	8	3	6	25	25	27
Millwall	18	7	6	5	24	25	27
Bristol City	18	7	5	6	23	21	26
W'hampton	17	5	8	4	27	19	23
Middlesbrough	16	6	5	5	25	19	23
Nottingham F	16	5	5	6	23	23	20
Grimsby	17	4	8	5	22	20	20
Notts County	17	6	2	9	22	29	20
Birmingham	17	5	5	7	19	24	20
Watford	16	5	4	7	20	30	19
Oxford	17	5	4	8	23	31	19
Luton	17	5	2	10	17	24	17
Sunderland	17	5	2	10	16	27	17
West Brom	15	4	4	7	24	27	16
Bolton	15	4	4	7	21	24	16
Barnsley	18	4	3	11	22	36	15
Peterborough	16	3	6	7	15	22	15

DIVISION TWO

Reading	17	11	4	2	40	21	37
Stockport	17	11	3	3	33	15	36
Bristol Rovers	17	9	4	4	23	16	31
Blackpool	17	9	3	5	33	25	30
Hull	17	9	3	5	32	27	30
Burnley	17	9	2	6	29	21	29
Plymouth	17	8	4	5	33	25	28
Port Vale	16	8	4	4	29	19	28
Bradford	17	7	3	7	29	28	24
Exeter	17	6	6	5	28	31	24
Brentford	17	6	6	5	16	15	24
Wrexham	17	6	5	6	27	28	23
Cambridge Utd	17	6	5	6	24	25	23
Swansea	17	6	5	6	20	23	23
Bournemouth	15	6	5	4	18	15	23
Leyton Orient	17	6	4	7	20	26	22
York	17	6	3	8	20	20	21
Rotherham	17	4	6	7	22	29	18
Huddersfield	17	4	5	8	16	24	17
Cardiff	16	3	7	6	25	30	16
Hartlepool	17	4	4	9	15	21	16
Brighton	17	3	6	8	15	26	15
Fulham	17	3	3	11	16	27	12
Barnet	17	1	2	14	14	40	5

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Motherwell	17	9	5	3	23	14	23
Rangers	18	8	6	4	27	20	22
Aberdeen	17	6	9	2	20	12	21
Hibernian	18	7	6	5	24	19	20
Celtic	17	5	9	3	21	15	19
Kilmarnock	18	5	8	5	18	18	18
Hearts	18	5	7	6	13	15	17
Dundee Utd	18	3	11	4	18	22	17
Partick	18	4	8	6	22	24	16
St Johnstone	18	4	7	7	17	24	15
Raith	17	2	9	6	20	32	13
Dundee	18	4	3	11	16	24	11

DIVISION ONE

Clydebank	19	10	6	3	33	17	26
Falkirk	18	10	5	3	32	19	25
Airdrie	19	10	5	4	29	18	25
Dunfermline	18	11	2	5	41	19	24
Hamilton	18	8	5	5	31	25	21
St Mirren	19	7	5	7	24	24	19
Ayr	19	7	5	7	17	19	19
Stirling	19	8	3	8	26	30	19
Dumbarton	19	6	3	10	23	30	15
Morton	19	3	7	9	21	35	13
Clyde	18	4	4	10	15	26	12
Brechin	19	2	2	15	8	37	6

Motherwell regain lead in Scotland

MOTHERWELL capitalised on Aberdeen's enforced inactivity to climb back to the top of Scottish Premier Division with a 2-0 home win over Dundee United at the weekend.

With the Dons' game at Raith postponed because of a frozen pitch, Motherwell cashed in on two defensive mistakes to sink United with goals from Dougie Arnott after just 90 seconds and Steve Kirk in the second half.

Arnott pounced after Brian Welsh and Dave Bowman failed to clear a long throw-in from Rob McKinnon, while Kirk struck when Maurice Malpas blundered from Raul McGrillen's cross.

Glasgow Rangers



jumped into second place with a 1-0 win at Hibernian, with whom they had shared 20 points before kick-off.

The champions made it 10 wins from 11 meetings with the Edinburgh club thanks to a 31st minute header from captain Richard Gough.

St Johnstone and Kilmarnock also achieved 1-0 away victories, Saints at Dundee and Kilmarnock

at Partick.

Paul Sturrock was given a perfect start to his new career as St Johnstone boss by a 16th minute goal from Allan Moore.

He gave the Perth club its first away League win of the season by nipping in on Gary Paterson's sloppy back pass.

Meanwhile, Danny Crainie earned the points for Killie with an incredible 40-yard shot eight minutes from time.

The day's other Premier game between Celtic and Heart of Midlothian ended in a 0-0 stalemate.

Celtic boss Lou Macari preserved his unbeaten home record, but saw his team booed off after a dour draw.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE SUMMARY

Aston Villa 1 (Whittingham 76th minute) Sheffield United 0. Attendance: 24,686.
Blackburn 2 (Shearer penalty 23rd, 77th) Southampton 0. 16,666.
Chelsea 0 Arsenal 2 (Smith 27th, Wright penalty 45th). 26,839.
Everton 0 Queens Park Rangers 3 (Allen 27th, 51st, 83rd). 17,089.
Manchester United 3 (Pallister 53rd, Hughes 66th, Kanchelskis 79th) Wimbledon 1 (Fashanu 64th). 44,748.
Norwich 1 (Fox 57th) Manchester City 1 (Quinn 59th). 16,626.
Sheffield Wednesday 0 Coventry 0. 23,379.
Swindon 2 (Scott 44th, Bodin penalty 83rd) Ipswich 2 (Wark 17th, penalty 62nd. 13,343.
Tottenham 1 (Anderton 81st) Leeds 1 (Deane 53rd). 31,275.
West Ham 2 (Martin 43rd, Morley 75th) Oldham 0. 17,251.

MITCHELL, BOSNICH STAR IN ENGLAND

Striker David Mitchell, who dumped the Socceroos after being used as a substitute in the first World Cup leg against Argentina, scored his first goal for Millwall last Saturday.

His eighth minute goal for the Lions put the London side on track for a 3-1 win over First Division promotion challengers Tranmere Rovers.

Fellow-Aussie Mark Bosnich, ruled out of Australia's 1-0 loss in Buenos Aires, passed a late fitness test on his injured hip and returned to action in Aston Villa's 1-0 Premiership defeat of Sheffield United. Bosnich moved superbly to palm away a 12 metre drive from Billy Falconer in the 80th minute to ensure the Villa win.

- RESULTS - RESULTS - RESULTS -

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa.....1 Sheffield United.....0
Blackburn.....2 Southampton.....0
Chelsea.....0 Arsenal.....2
Everton.....0 QPR.....3
Manchester U...3 Wimbledon.....1
Norwich.....1 Manchester City.....1
Sheffield Wed..0 Coventry.....0
Swindon.....2 Ipswich.....2
Tottenham.....1 Leeds.....1
West Ham.....2 Oldham.....0
Playing Sunday: Newcastle v Liverpool.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley.....1 Crystal Palace.....3
Birmingham...0 Portsmouth.....1
Derby.....2 Grimsby.....1
Leicester.....2 Oxford.....3
Millwall.....3 Tranmere.....1
Notts County...2 Stoke.....0
Peterborough..0 Charlton.....1
Sunderland....0 Southend.....2
Watford.....1 Bristol City.....1
Postponed: Luton v Wolverhampton.
Playing Sunday: Middlesbrough v Bolton, West Bromwich v Nottingham Forest.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Blackpool.....2 Huddersfield.....1
Bournemouth..0 Hull.....2
Brentford.....0 Burnley.....0
Brighton.....0 Reading.....1
Exeter.....1 Port Vale.....1
Hartlepool.....1 Wrexham.....2
Rotherham.....1 Fulham.....2
Stockport.....0 Bristol Rovers.....2
Swansea.....1 Leyton Orient.....1
York.....1 Barnet.....1
Cambridge Utd 1 Cardiff.....1

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Carlisle.....0 Preston.....1
Chester.....1 Northampton.....0
Chesterfield...1 Scarborough.....0
Darlington.....2 Mansfield.....0
Doncaster.....2 Colchester.....1
Gillingham.....2 Wigan.....2
Rochdale.....2 Bury.....1
Shrewsbury....0 Scunthorpe.....0
Torquay.....1 Hereford.....1
Walsall.....5 Lincoln.....2
Wycombe.....3 Crewe.....1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Celtic.....0 Hearts.....0
Dundee.....0 St Johnstone.....1

Hibernian.....0 Rangers.....1
Motherwell.....2 Dundee United.....0
Partick.....0 Kilmarnock.....1
Postponed: Raith v Aberdeen.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Airdrieonians..0 Dumbarton.....1
Brechin.....1 St Mirren.....4
Clydebank.....2 Stirling.....1
Morton.....0 Ayr.....1
Postponed: Clyde v Falkirk, Dunfermline v Hamilton.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Arbroath.....3 Meadowbank.....2
Cowdenbeath..1 Stranraer.....2
East Stirling...2 East Fife.....1
Montrose.....1 Alloa.....2
Queen of Sth...1 Albion.....2
Queen's Park...1 Stenhousemuir.....2
Postponed: Berwick v Forfar.

NORTHERN IRELAND LEAGUE

Ards.....2 Ballyclare.....0
Coleraine.....3 Bangor.....1
Crusaders.....3 Larne.....1
Distillery.....4 Ballymena.....1
Linfield.....3 Cliftonville.....1
Newry.....2 Carrick.....2
Omagh Town...1 Glenavon.....2
Portadown.....1 Glentoran.....0